

IS NOT MY WORD LIKE AS A FIRE?

I. Text – Jeremiah 23:29

II. Jeremiah uses a simile to express the effectiveness of God's Word. He likens the Word of God to a fire that burns and to a hammer that breaks. Many such similes are found in the Bible:

1. A sieve to sift (Psalm 105:19)
2. A light to search (Psalm 119:105)
3. A knife to cut (Acts 5:33)
4. A seed to sow (I Peter 1:23)
5. A sword to kill (Hebrews 4:12)

A skeptic in London recently said, in speaking of the Bible, that it was quite impossible in these days to believe in any book whose author was unknown. A Christian asked him if the compiler of the multiplication table was known. "No, he answered." "Then, of course, you do not believe in it?" "Oh yes, I believe in it because it works well," replied the skeptic. "So does the Bible," said the rejoinder, and the skeptic had no answer to make.

I. THE SOURCE OF GOD'S WORD

A. This passage speaks of "My word... and saith the Lord." The Bible is God's Word (II Timothy 3:16; II Peter 1:21). There are many voices demanding our attention, but God's voice is the most important.

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B. Statement of Fundamental Truth: “We believe the Bible is the inspired and only infallible and authoritative Word of God.” The Bible is our all-sufficient rule for faith and practice.

II. THE FORCE OF GOD’S WORD

A. It is said to be “like as fire” and fire is active, energetic and powerful. What a mighty force the Word of God is when it is released through the lips of the preacher and received into the heart.

B. The creative act of God in forming the world is a good example of the force it has!

III. THE COURSE OF GOD’S WORD

A. In what way does the Word of God operate? How is it like fire? What is its effect upon the soul?

B. Consider six things:

1. It ignites the soul. A gardener rakes all the dead leaves into a pile and ignites them with a match. The soul is dead until ignited with the fire of God’s Word.

2. It burns the conscience. The Word of God is the instrument that the Holy Spirit uses to touch and burn the conscience so that it is made aware of the things that displease God (John 8:1-9).

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3. It purifies the life. Dr. F.E. March says in one of his books that we need to be purified from “the dross of pride, the rags of self-righteousness, the leaves of empty profession, the stubble of questioning doubt, the thorns of prickly temper, the filth of unholy desire, the chaff of useless endeavor, the roots of black bitterness, the straw of pretentious unreality and the refuse of unprofitable talk” (Isaiah 6:1-7).

4. It illuminates the mind. Fire sends out an illuminating ray. As we read, study, and obey the Word of God, it gives Divine illumination (Psalm 119:105).

5. It energizes the will. If fire is put into a steam-engine great energy is generated. The Word of God in the hands of the Holy Spirit energizes the will of the Christian. It imparts inward strength so that we not only have the desire to please God but the will and the strength to do so (Psalm 119:28).

6. It warms the heart. The result of sitting in front of a good fire is to be warmed, to be cheered, to be encouraged, to be uplifted. God’s Word is a fire that does just that for His children (Luke 24:32-34).

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CONCLUSION

How to make the best use of God's Word:

1. Read it through
2. Pray it in
3. Work it out
4. Note it down
5. Pass it on

SERMON OUTLINES: Subject, Bible – 8/30/78, Amarillo First

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