

## Sword - Cont.

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When people withhold the truth of God's word from their lives, they dull it. They will not benefit from God's truth. But, we need to obtain the truth at all cost: *"Buy the truth, and sell it not; Yea, wisdom, and instruction, and understanding"* (Proverbs 23:23).

When people preach a "social gospel" of food and fun, they dull it. They preach everything but the saving gospel of Jesus and so they don't save people from sin. But, the word of God is for saving people from sin: <sup>16</sup> *For I am not ashamed of the gospel: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.* <sup>17</sup> *For therein is revealed a righteousness of God from faith unto faith: as it is written, But the righteous shall live by faith.* (Romans 1:16-17).

These are but a few ways that people can dull the sharp sword of God's word. God's word can also be dulled when human tradition is substituted (Matthew 15:3,6), when human wisdom is introduced (Colossians 2:8), when hypocrisy clouds the light of truth (Romans 2:21-24), when sin gets in the way (James 1:21), and when opportunities for preaching are silenced (Acts 5:40-42).

Yes, God's word is both powerful and sharp. It will do the good work in our lives that God intends for us if we will just let it. Let us never dull the sharp sword of God's word by our actions. - *Chris Reeves*

## Sentence Sermons

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- Lessons learned in hard times should be remembered in good times
- God wants you to live straight in the midst of a crooked generation.
- Self-restraint is the channel that keeps your character on the right track.
- You cannot accept the Christ of the cross without also accepting the cross of the Christ.

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# THE WARFIELD BULLETIN

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.  
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

## God's Word Is Sharp

The word of God, the Bible, is described as something that is both powerful and sharp (Ezekiel 21:1ff; Matthew 10:34; Romans 1:4, 16, 20; 2 Corinthians 6:7; 10:3-5; Hebrews 1:3; 4:12; and Revelation 1:16). It is powerful to change a person and it is sharp to penetrate the very deepest recesses of a person's heart.

If you doubt the power of God's word, just look at the people it has changed through the centuries. It has changed doubtful people, unbelieving people, religious people, good people, and wicked people. It can even change you if you will let it.

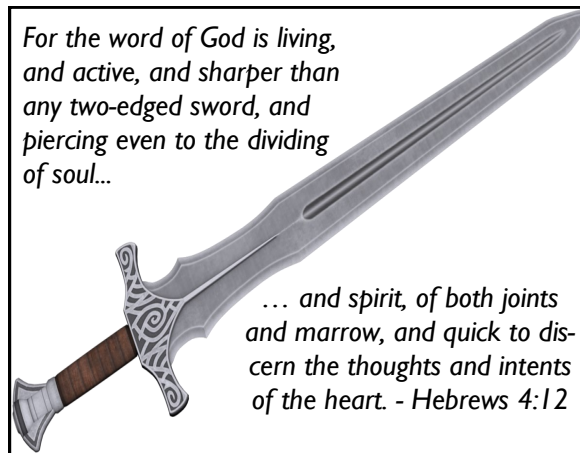
However, as powerful and sharp as the word of God is, the way we handle it today can actually dull its effectiveness in our life and the lives of those around us. We can take an otherwise sharp sword and dull it through our own human wisdom and actions. Let's consider a few ways in which the sharp word of God can be dulled today.

## God's Word Is Dulled

When people considered the Bible a dead book, they dull it. They don't even look at the Bible because they believe that it is out-of-date. But, the word of God endures forever: <sup>23</sup> *having been begotten again, not of corruptible seed, but of incor-*

*ruptible, through the word of God, which liveth and abideth.* <sup>24</sup> *For, All flesh is as grass, And all the glory thereof as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower falleth:* <sup>25</sup> *But the word of the Lord abideth for ever. And this is the word of good tidings which was preached unto you. (1 Peter 2:23-25).*

When people claim alleged latter-day revelations, they dull it. They make the Bible compete with other so-called words of God. But, the word of God in the Bible is the only complete and inspired word of God: <sup>16</sup> *Every scrip-*



*ture inspired of God is also profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for instruction which is in righteousness:* <sup>17</sup> *that the man of God may be complete, furnished completely unto every good work (2 Timothy 3:16-17).*

When people have ears that are closed to the truth, they dull it. They don't accept the truth of God's word and let it work in their lives. But, the only way to benefit from the

word of God is to have open ears, hearts, and minds: <sup>14</sup> *And unto them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall in no wise understand; And seeing ye shall see, and shall in no wise perceive:* <sup>15</sup> *For this people's heart is waxed gross, And their ears are dull of hearing, And their eyes they have closed; Lest haply they should perceive with their eyes, And hear with their ears, And understand with their heart, And should turn again, And I should heal them.* <sup>16</sup> *But blessed are your eyes, for they see; and your ears, for they hear (Matthew 13:14-15).*

When people let their own pride take over, they dull it. They harden themselves and refuse to obey the truth. They are like King Uzziah: *"But when he was strong, his heart was lifted up, so that he did corruptly, and he trespassed against Jehovah his God; for he went into the temple of Jehovah to burn incense upon the altar of incense"* (2 Chronicles 26:16).

When people will not condemn sin in their lives or the lives of others, they dull it. They will not allow God's truth to condemn sin or they say that God's truth does not condemn a certain sin like homosexuality. But, we are to reprove and rebuke sin with God's word: *"preach the word; be urgent in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching"* (2 Timothy 4:2).

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