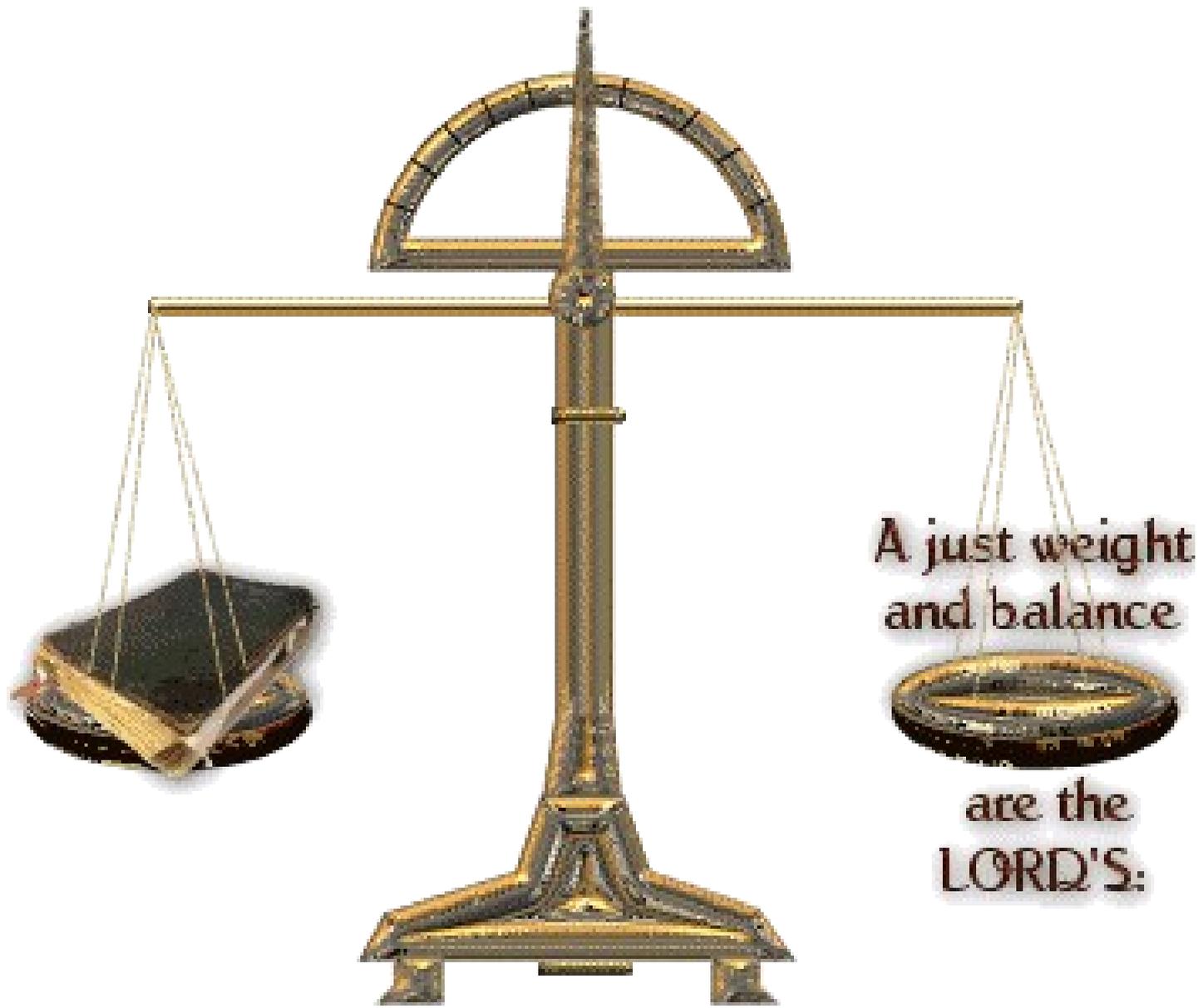


- Church Web Site

www.tryonchurchofchrist.com

All sermons are posted here
plus additional resources



A just weight
and balance

are the
LORD'S:

Thus saith the Lord...

- **We begin our lesson
for today
with a warning:**
 - **Let us therefore fear,**
 - **lest, a promise being left *us*
of entering into his rest,**
 - **any of you should seem
to come short of it.**
(Hebrews 4:1)

- And how might one end up on the short end?
- **For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them:**
 - **but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard *it*.**
(Hebrews 4:2)

- A word,
however great,
is of no benefit
unless it becomes
integrated into the
person who hears it.

- There are many different kinds of hearing in this world.
- Indifferent hearing,
- Disinterested hearing,
 - Critical hearing,
 - Skeptical hearing,
 - Cynical hearing.
 - Interested Hearing

- The hearing that matters is the hearing that **listens** eagerly, **believes** and **acts**.
- The promises of God are not merely beautiful pieces of literature;
- They are promises on which a man is meant to stake his **life** and his **soul**.

- Hebrews 4:1

bids us

“*fear*”

lest we miss the promise.

- Not the fear which paralyzes.

- But the fear which makes us

put forth great effort

not to miss the one thing
that is worth while.

- The Jews always had a very special idea about words.
- Once a word was spoken, it had an independent existence.
- It was not just a sound.
 - It was a power which went forth for good or evil.

- Isaiah heard God say:

Isaiah 55:11

my word that comes from my mouth will not return to me empty,

but it will accomplish what I please and will prosper in what I send it to do.”

- This Word of God is not a mere sound that disappears and ceases when it is uttered,
 - However, the word of man is exactly that.

- The Word of God is as
“**living**”

as

“**the living God**”

himself.

(**Hebrews 3:12**)

- God and his Word
cannot be separated.

- Hebrews

describes the word of God
in a series of great phrases.

- The word of God
is alive with life.

- Certain words and issues
are as
dead as the dodo bird.

- The great fact about the word of God is **that it is a living issue** for all men of all times.
- Other things may pass quietly into **oblivion**;
 - Some things may be of **academic interest**;
- But the word of God is something that **every man must face**,
 - Requiring **acceptance** or **rejection**.

- When people take God seriously they immediately realize that his word is not only something **to be studied,**
 - Not only something **to be read,**
 - Not only something **to be written about;**
 - It is something **to be done.**

- What was in the word that made Zaccheus restore fourfold?
 - In Mary Magdalen, when it cast out seven devils?
 - In those three thousand souls on Pentecost.
 - In the city of Samaria, when Simon, the magician, obeyed the gospel?

- What mighty power enabled 12 men to send out a message that has subdued the whole world.
(Matthew 28:19-20)

- The word of God is penetrating.
 - Just how penetrating?
- It penetrates to the division of soul and spirit.

- Finally the writer to the Hebrews sums things up.
- He says that everything is naked to God and exposed to meet his eyes.
 - He uses two interesting words.

- The word for naked is the literal word (nude <G1131>).
- As far as men are concerned we may be able to wear our outward trappings and disguises;
- But in the presence of God these things are stripped away and we have to meet him as we are.

- The other word is even more vivid (**tetrachelismenos**)

<**G5136**>

- Phonetic Pronunciation
:trakh-ay-lid'-zo
- Strong's Talking Greek & Hebrew Dictionary.

- Hebrews 4:13

*“All things are
naked and opened
unto the eyes of him
with whom we have to do.*

- We know what the word
“naked” means

- But what about that word
“opened”?
(G_5136)

- Sometimes when a criminal was being led to execution,
 - A dagger, with point upwards, was so fixed below his chin that he could not bow his head in concealment.

- But had to keep it up so that all could see his face and know his dishonor.
- When that was done, a man was said to be “*laid bare*” (<G5136>).

- In the end we have to meet the eyes of God.

- We may avert our gaze from people we are ashamed to meet;

- But we are compelled to look God in the face.

- There comes a time to every man when he has to meet that God from whose eyes nothing ever can be concealed.

- Are you listening?

- The Word of God is described in amazing terms...
 - It is "living"
 - It is "powerful"
 - "sharper than any two-edged sword,
- piercing even to the division of soul and spirit"
 - "a discerner of the thoughts and intentions of the heart"

- God's word is not some **"dead letter"** ...
- Notice peter's description of it
1peter 1:23-25
"lives and abides forever"
 - **Isaiah 40:8**
- 8 ***The grass withers, the flowers fade, but the word of our God remains forever."***

- Jesus said:

Matthew 24:35 (ASV)

***Heaven and earth shall pass away,
but my words shall not pass away.***

- The "**life**" of God's Word
is due to the nature of God Himself!

- God is eternal,

- He is

"the living God"

(Hebrews 3:12; Jer 10:10)

- He cannot lie,
so what He says
will come to pass
(Hebrews 6:18; Titus 1:2)
- Thus His Word
will never perish!
- As Jesus said,
***"...the words that
I speak unto you,
they are spirit,
and they are life."***
(John 6:63)

- **THAT GOD'S WORD IS
"ALIVE"
IS SEEN IN ITS
"POWER"...**

- **Isaiah 55:11 (KJV)**

***So shall my word be that goes
forth out of my mouth:
it shall not return unto me void,
but it shall accomplish that which
I please, and it shall prosper in
the thing whereto I sent it.***

- The gospel has the power to save.

- James 1:21 (ASV)

Wherefore putting away all filthiness
and overflowing of wickedness,
receive with meekness the implanted
word,

which is able to save your souls.

- Romans 1:16-17 (KJV)

16 For I am not ashamed of the
gospel of Christ: for it is the
power of God unto salvation

- Through God's word we can be born again.
- 1 Peter 1:22-23 (ASV)

22 Seeing ye have purified your souls in your obedience to the truth unto unfeigned love of the brethren, love one another from the heart fervently:

23 having been begotten again,

not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, through the

word of God,

which liveth and abideth.

- What does Peter mean by **“Being born again?”**
- We will note a life **without Christ.**
- What is that life?
 - We will note **three things.**

- **# 1 It is life of ignorance.**

- Aristotle spoke of God as the supreme cause,

- A god all men dreamed about **but a god no man could know.**

- In a world without Christ God was a mystery and power **but never love;**

- **# 2 It is a world dominated by lusts.**
 - It is a world **void of any purpose.**
 - Men groping in **darkness.**
 - Not looking for light, but more darkness.

Isaiah 29:15

15 Woe to those who go to great lengths to hide their plans from the Lord.

They do their works in the dark, and say,

“Who sees us? Who knows us?”

- **# 3 It is a life characterized by futility.**
 - Catullus, Latin poet, writes of **seizing life's moments** and its fleeting joy.
 - Life was a futile business with a few brief years in the light of the sun **and then an eternal nothingness.**

- There was nothing for which to live and nothing for which to die.

- Life is futile when there is nothing on the other side of death.

- We will now note a Christ like life.
- # 1 To live with purpose and hope.
 - It lifts man out of the pig-pen of life.
(Luke 15:17)
 - “*And when he came to himself*”

- **# 2 The Christian does not squander life.**

- Life has **purpose.**
- Life is lived in the **shadow of eternity;**
- He thinks not only of **where he is**
but also of **where he is going.**

- # 3 The Christ like life is one of “love”.

- It is that which speaks of eternity.

- “Love”
remakes the individual.

- It elevates mankind
above the beast of the field.

- ***Right now three things remain:
faith, hope, and love. But the
greatest of these is love.***

(1 Cor 13:13)

Isaiah 40:8

**The grass withers,
the flower fade;
but the word
of our God
shall stand forever.**

- Have you ever sat for a portrait?
- Did it look like you?
- Does not God's Book Divine accurately describe your very soul?
- And when did you sit for the Divine portrait?

- We may affirm
of the Bible,
that he who reads it
will find his own portrait
given with
great accuracy,
- His heart laid bare
for inspection.

- There is nothing that can **be hid from God;** everything in all creation is exposed and lies open before his eyes. And it is to him that we must all **give an account of ourselves.** (Hebrews 4:13 -GNB)

- **Are**

you

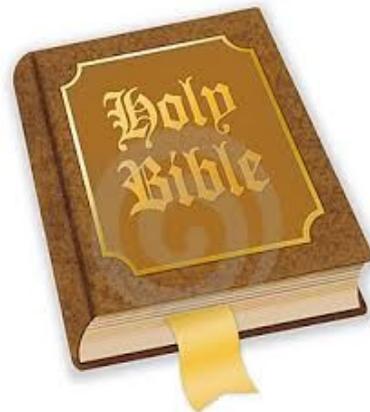
listening?

- **Think on these things**
- **Philippians 4:8**

**The doors of the church
are open.**

**The Spirit and the Bride
Say
“Come”.**

Revelation 22:17



- 08-21-22 Tryon, NC

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