

Day 22 Devotion

For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

Hebrews 4:12

I solemnly urge you in the presence of God and Christ Jesus, who will someday judge the living and the dead when he comes to set up his Kingdom: Preach the word of God. Be prepared, whether the time is favorable or not. Patiently correct, rebuke, and encourage your people with good teaching.

2nd Timothy 4:1-4

On the radio recently, I heard a Christian minister describe his approach to preaching and it challenged me. He spoke of how preaching the Word of God could be like putting little pebbles in people's shoes, pebbles which – he hoped – would cause them to walk away from Sunday services, a little irritated, until they were willing to sit down, take their shoes off, and examine what it was they heard that was bothering them. Perhaps examining the irritation might allow the Spirit to even open their eyes to see something they hadn't yet seen clearly about God – or about themselves.

The interviewer asked the preacher if he had experienced any of his parishioners changing their minds after his sermons or interacting with him later. No, he didn't know of anyone, but the changing of minds was God's job not his. I thought of a phrase I have heard: "I can do God's work but I cannot do God's job."

I understand doing God's work to be inviting others to "come and see" the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ who knows everything about us and loves us anyway. Doing God's work is showing through our words and actions that the face of God is in every person we meet for God "makes everyone equally in God's image male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community." Doing God's work is speaking God's word into the world and trusting that the Holy Spirit can use it to do God's job - changing the hearts and minds of people.

Question: Can pebbles of truth dismantle mountains of lies?

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O Lord, we can not move mountains, but You can. May our words and thoughts be filled with Your word of truth – the living Word of Jesus Christ whom we know through the scriptures. In his powerful name, we pray. Amen.

Resources: "A Brief Statement of Faith - Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), [The Book of Confessions](#), Office of the General Assembly Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), 2004

[Implicit Bias -- how it effects us and how we push through | Melanie Funchess | TEDxFlourCity - YouTube](#)