

SWORD OF THE LORD CONFERENCE 2023

DAY ONE: MONDAY July 17, 2023

7PM Shelton Smith – Hebrews 3:12-4:16

Personal testimony: when he received the call to be a pastor at age 14, he said the Lord infused him with an energy he didn't have before. He preached 2 Timothy 3 and his parents responded to the altar call and joined the church that night.

Hebrews 3:12

Context given: written to Jewish Christians. Some were stumbling, being pressured, shifting. This was written to encourage them in that time.

Written "to the brethren"

Stressed the words "US" and "THEM" The difference is listening mixed with faith.

Faith will provide sufficient and superb things no matter what your situation.

Our Attitude will distinguish US from THEM (unbelievers in the world).

What Activities do you participate in and what places do you go to? What are your Ambitions? What is your Attire? Who do you Associate with? What are your Articulations?

All of these "A" words will distinguish US from THEM.

"OUTLINE" for Hebrews 4

Heb 4:1 let US fear, to enter into His rest.

Heb 4:11 let US labor to enter that rest. Too many people don't work. The Bible tells us to work.

Heb 4:14 let US hold fast to our profession. Be a credible witness. Run to the church when you have trouble, not away from it.

Heb 4:16 let US come boldly. We can go to the throne in prayer for forgiveness, our nation, for anything.

Heb 6:1 let US go on unto perfection.

Doesn't mean SINLESS but as you get older you will SIN LESS. (no explanation given).

We make choices that identify US. Choose to be US. THEM could be US to, in the same way US did, by faith.

8PM Dann Carr Sr. – 1 Corinthians 9:24-27

Castaway- useless, of no value. He said used only one time in the Bible (but the BLB app has 8 listings for the Greek word used here).

Paul was concerned about himself.

When he preaches to others he should be a castaway.

Song of Solomon 1:6 – my vineyard I have kept not (spiritual vineyard).

How to keep your life from being a mess while helping others with their mess. He was primarily speaking to the pastors. You aren't exempt from the temptations of the devil on the weakness of the flesh.

All of their flesh is equally weak as it was the of their salvation.

Psalms 34:19 – the righteous have many troubles, but the Lord delivers them.

Four ways to keep your life in order while you are pastoring others.

1. A strong, solid marriage. (but Paul wasn't married – my note)
He had a fight with his wife but the Spirit told him to go home and not preach. Have to have a place of rest which should be the home.
2. You must deal with the sin in your life.
Pastors need to humble themselves, accept correction about their own sin.
Matthew 7:1-4 – judging others.
Sins they may struggle with: pornography, discouragement (like Elijah and Spurgeon), unbelief, dishonesty, pride, gossip.
3. A daily walk with God.
Martha and Mary narrative.
Time with God should be the top priority. It restores.
Let your focus be on Jesus.
Galatians 1:10, Colossians 3:17.
Stay in church.
4. Matthew 11:28 – rest, light yoke.
Give your burdens and the people's burdens to the Lord.
We are sinners, saved by grace. The apostles were sinners. Jesus forgives.