

Members and Friends

MT. PLEASANT CHURCH NEWSLETTER

"Hebrews 4"

WRITTEN BY PASTOR RICH HERBSTER

"12 For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. 13 And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account. (Hebrews 4:12-13, NIV)

When Alexander the Great came to Phrygia he was confronted by the challenge of the Gordian Knot. Legend had it that whoever untied the knot would become the ruler of all of the world, something which Alexander greatly desired. In his own inimitable style, Alexander took up his sword and hacked the knot in two. Probably not what the Phrygians had in mind!

The book of Hebrews describes God's word using the metaphor of a sharp double-edged sword. Like Alexander's encounter with the Gordian Knot, God doesn't mess about with our human pretense. He slices right through it. We think ourselves pretty complex, but...not to God!



God's word is "living and active" – it does things! It isn't static. It brings transformation.

That is its purpose and function. It's rather a violent image, especially when applied to oneself – a vivisection of the inner man. God's word divides soul and spirit. What does that even mean? I don't know exactly, but it means that God is hacking away at the inner man in ways that I can't even know or understand.

There is no point in trying to hide from God.

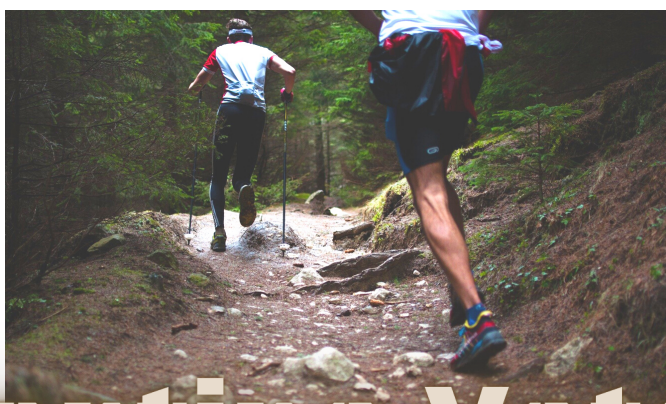
There is no defense we can put forward to fend him off. We must submit to him. Our pretense is as useless as Adam's fig leaves before a holy God. Don't try to hide from him. Let his word pierce you. Read scripture, but, more importantly, let scripture read you. And he will change you.

Upcoming Sermons

- 10-31-21 - Haggai 1
- 11-7-21 - Haggai 2
- 11-14-21 - 1 John 1:1-4; 4:2
- 11-7-21 - 1 John 2:7-14; 3:11-24; 4:19-21



Upcoming Events



Supporting Veterans

What: Outdoor Immersion's Resilient Service Members Classic Trail Run/Walk

When: Saturday, Nov. 6, 2021 @ 9am

Where: Hookstown, PA 15050

Did you know:

- 50% of veterans who served in Iraq and Afghanistan experience mental health issues?
- 20-30% of deployed veterans experience PTSD and other integration issues?
- Southwestern PA is home to one of the highest veteran populations in the entire country?

OUTDOOR IMMERSION serves those who served us and others by spending time with them in God's creation, becoming friends and sharing the Good News of Jesus.

WHAT CAN YOU, YOUR MISSIONAL COMMUNITY, CHURCH FAMILY AND BUSINESS DO TO HELP?

•**RUN!** - If you can run or walk, please sign up for the RESILIENT SERVICE MEMBERS CLASSIC TRAIL RACE! There are 5K smooth road, 10K and 20 Mile trail options. Use the link below.

•**VOLUNTEER!**—we need aid station workers, parking attendants, go-fors, crossing guards, people who smile a lot and share the love of Jesus!, ...and more

EMAIL—Amanda@appleseedevents.com

•**SPONSOR!**—we need business and corporate sponsors who can help underwrite the cost of the event.

EMAIL—Info@outdoorimmersion.org

•**DONATE!**— all donations are tax-deductible as we are a non-profit, 501c3 organization. Donated dollars help to sustain and expand our mission as God stretches our boundaries.

WHERE TO START? GO TO: WWW.OUTDOORIMMERSION.ORG and click on RACE REGISTRATION