



[Hebrews 4:12-13](#)

(12) For the word of God *is* living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. (13) And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things *are* naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we *must give* account.

New King James Version

The Word of [God](#) is always an issue in our lives. The greatest gift a human being can be given is to hear this message, [the Gospel](#) Message, because around it our belief system is to be conformed. The Word of God becomes an issue because it tests a person's life and sets the standards of acceptable behavior and attitudes.

Verse 13 contains a very vivid picture in "all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account." In Greek literature, this illustration alludes to two things. First, it pictures a priest prepared to sacrifice an animal, so he has turned the head of the animal to put it into a position to cut its throat. In other words, the animal had to look into the eyes of its executioner, and he in turn had to look into the eyes of the animal.

The second, in some ways, is even more vivid. It is drawn from the Olympic games, in which wrestling played a significant part. In this picture, one of the competitors is about to be pinned. His opponent has a grip on him that has placed the loser's shoulders on the mat, and his face has been turned up so that he has to look directly into the eyes of his conqueror.

Everybody has to face God's Word directly. We can think of the Word of God as being the living [Jesus Christ](#), since judgment of us has been committed to Him. We all must pass before the judgment seat of Christ ([Romans 14:10](#)). We are under it right now because judgment is on the house of God ([1 Peter 4:17](#)).

The Berean: Daily Verse and Commentary for Hebrews 4:12-13 (<http://www.theberean.org>)

What are we doing with the message? How is it affecting our lives? Is [the world](#) having such an impact on us that it is creating its fruit in us, perhaps apathy toward the things of God and great interest in the things of this world? As [Revelation 3:17](#) suggests, the [Laodicean](#) is not lazy. He is rich in the wrong things, expending his energy on the wrong things. He even tells God, "I have need of nothing." Are we allowing the Word of God to transform us into His image?

— John W. Ritenbaugh

To learn more, see:

[Hebrews: A Message for Today](#)



Related Topics:

[Animal Sacrifices](#)

[Judgment on House of God](#)

[Laodicean](#)

[Transformed into Image of God](#)

[Transformed into the Image of Jesus Christ](#)

Commentary copyright © 1992-2016 [Church of the Great God](#)
New King James Version copyright © 1982 by [Thomas Nelson, Inc.](#)