

PASTOR'S PATCH



My eldest daughter Jessie recently bought us a wonderful new kitchen knife. She loves cooking and when she's back home gets frustrated with the selection of knives that we have. I have to admit that our existing ones are (as my parents used to say) "blunt as old boots". Sadly I don't really quite know how to sharpen them as we don't have a knife "steel". So we've got used to the fact when wanting to chop anything, we have to exert effort and maybe repeated actions to actually effectively cut food with our blunt instruments.

So with this new knife in the kitchen, it took me just 48 hours before I managed to slice open my fingers on it twice when handling it and putting it in the dishwasher: bringing my fingers even lightly into contact with it led to a clean cut and a flow of blood. Plasters have been needed by me more than normal!

Now the Bible says

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 chapter 4 verse 12)

Every Sunday we'll hear the Word of God: forget a sword, it's way sharper than even a new kitchen knife! Every day you pick up a Bible or read a Bible App, you're handling a razor-sharp Word. So what expectancy do we have as we come to church or as we read the Bible? If we expect it to be "blunt as old boots" thinking that it may have nothing to say to us, then someone is going to get hurt – and a plaster is certainly not going to stem the flow.

May we all come to God's Word with care and reverence, with expectancy and awe. I know we who preach aim to do that too. Through His Word God wants to speak into all of our hearts, maybe to judge our thoughts and attitudes, maybe to change them. So why not go, even now, gently and wisely and with expectancy to God's Word, and see how it impacts your life?

Darrell