

Scriptures: Exodus 20:1-17 & Luke 8:1-21

Psalters: 261:1-3 – 109:1-2 – 121:1-4 – 41:1-3 – 41:5-7

It is required of those that hear the word preached, that they attend upon it with diligence, preparation and prayer, examine what they hear by the Scriptures; receive the truth with faith, love, meekness, and readiness of mind, as the Word of God; meditate, and confer of it; hide it in their hearts, and bring forth the fruit of it in their lives.

(Westminster Larger Catechism, 160)

HOW TO HEAR THE WORD PROFITABLY? (1)

- I. Prepare yourself before hearing
- II. Be attentive while hearing
- III. Apply yourself after hearing the Word

I. Prepare yourself for the *hearing of the Word of God*

A. How am I to prepare myself?

1. Do not become a *way-side hearer* (vs. 5, 12)

2. Instead be a prayerful seeker throughout the week

a. pray through select verses like Ps. 119:18; 25; 36; 37; 80, 88

b. pray for the mindset found in Cornelius (Acts 10:33; 1 Thess. 2:13)

II. Be attentive while hearing the Word of God preached

A. Take heed therefore *how ye hear* (Luke 8:18a)

1. Continue to attend *prayerfully* throughout entire sermon for you are in *one of the most critical battlefields in church* (Acts 13:8)

B. Take heed not to be rocky-ground hearer or impulsive hearer (vs. 13)

C. Take heed not to be partial or divided heart hearer (vs. 14)

D. Take heed to be *fruitful listener* (15): be an *attentive listener* (Luke 19:48)

1. Good listening to sermon is intense *spiritual exercise*

a. compare Prov. 2:3-4 and Prov. 18:15

2. Jesus commands us to *take heed how we hear*

a. to hear in Hebrew culture is to *obey – act* (Luke 8:8b, 21)

b. listening to a sermon is a *dialog between God and you*

3. Implore God for Lydia's experience: Acts 17:14: *"...whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul."*

E. Take heed to the greatest obstacle to hear and receive Jesus' words

1. Ps. 78:22, 32, 56-57: *"... because they believed not in God, and trusted not in his salvation*

TAKE ALONG ...

A. We need to come *prepared to hear*

B. We need to be exercised with prayers like Ps. 19:12-14 & Ps. 139:23-24

C. We need to pray to come and hear with faith:

But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarded of them that diligently seek him. (Hebrews 11:6)

Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it.

For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them:

But the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it. (Hebrews 4:1-2)

Some thoughts to ponder and discuss ...

1. Discuss how to rearrange your schedules to set aside more time to prepare for the solemn meeting with God each Lord's Day.
2. Meditate on Ps. 87:2-3. What does this indicate about the church gathering?