

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?