

GOOD HEARERS OF THE WORD

Introduction

- 1) **Acts 10:24-33** – we see here an audience that was eager to hear an important message
- 2) When a preacher is prepared to speak the word of God and those in the audience are prepared and eager to hear that word, only good can come for all to the glory of God
- 3) Anyone can “hear” something, but true hearing involves thinking, understanding, and application – “he who has ears to hear, let him hear!” (Matt. 13:9)
 - a) We have ears, but are we ready and willing to be good hearers of the word?

I) **The Obligation of the Preacher**

- A) The preacher must preach the word of God...
 - 1) **Authoritatively** (1 Tim 4:11-12; Titus 2:15 – emphasize the authority of God)
 - 2) **Doctrinally** (1 Tim. 4:16; Titus 2:1 – teach the doctrine of Christ)
 - 3) **Exemplarily** (1 Tim. 4:12 – practice what is preached)
 - 4) **Exclusively** (1 Tim. 6:3-4 – only what has been revealed)
 - 5) **Militantly** (1 Tim 1:18; 6:12 – defend the truth and fight error)
 - 6) **Lovingly** (2 Tim. 1:7 – love for truth and lost souls)
 - 7) **Humbly** (2 Tim. 2:24-25 – lift up the word of Christ, not self)

II) **The Heart of the Hearer**

- A) **Noble and good** (Lk. 8:15)
 - 1) Open, convicted, and dedicated to the truth (Acts 17:11)
- B) **Seeking and receptive** (Acts 17:11; 2:41)
 - 1) “Received” (Gk. *apodechomai*) – welcome, embrace (Jas. 1:21)
- C) **Meek and humble** (Jas. 1:21)
 - 1) Willing to submit to God and obey His word (Jas. 4:7, 10)

III) **The Ideal Audience (Acts 10:33)**

- A) **“We are all present”** – If we are not here, we cannot hear!!
 - 1) Should indicate interest and desire, not obligation
- B) **“Before God”** – in God’s presence when hearing His word
 - 1) If Jesus were in the audience, how would we act? He is here!
 - 2) Show reverence and respect for His word (Hab. 2:20; Neh. 8:5)
- C) **“To hear”** – reason for the gathering
 - 1) Not gather for social get-together, covered dish, reunion, etc.
 - 2) Good hearing takes preparation and effort – remove distractions
 - 3) Disrespect God and speaker if we do not pay attention
- D) **“All the things commanded you by God”** – the ingredients of a perfect sermon
 - 1) Sermon should not be primarily jokes, feel-good stories, etc.
 - 2) Desire the pure word of God (1 Pet. 2:1-2; 2 Pet. 1:3)

Conclusion

Like young Samuel, let us say, “Speak, for Your servant hears!” (1 Sam. 3:10). Like the audience before Ezra, may our ears be “attentive” to the book of God (Neh. 8:3). Let us desire and demand to know all that the Lord has to say and always be ideal hearers of “the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified” (Acts 20:32).