

## Be Careful What You Hear & How!

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by Wayne Goff

*“Walk prudently when you go to the house of God; and draw near to hear rather than to give the sacrifice of fools, for they do not know that they do evil” (Eccl. 5:1).*

We are accountable in life for everything we do. However, God has placed *special emphasis* upon our worship when we come before His august presence! Solomon said to **be careful in the house of God to hear!** Those who come *absentmindedly, haphazardly, or disrespectfully* offer *“the sacrifice of fools.”* Let us come before God this week with a heart attuned to His Word and Will.

Jesus warned His disciples to be careful as to **what** they heard (Mk. 4:24; Lk. 8:18). One can be deceived by a crafty teacher who plays to your *wants* rather than to your *needs*. Joel Olsteen comes to mind as just such a deceiver! Jesus warned His disciples of *“the leaven (doctrine) of the Pharisees and the Sadducees”* (Matt. 16:6, 11-12). So how does one take care as to **what** he hears? Listen to the teacher or preacher with an attentive ear, and search the Scriptures to see if what is taught is so (Acts 17:11). Many *deceived* will be lost for all eternity because they did not take sufficient care to what they heard. *“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you travel land and sea to win one proselyte, and when he is won, you make him twice as much a son of hell as yourselves”* (Matt. 23:15).

Jesus also reminded us to *“take heed **how** you hear”* (Lk. 8:18). Those whose heart is attuned to God’s Word will receive it into a good, honest heart and it will produce more fruit (Jn. 15:3). But those whose heart is **not** willing to properly receive it, will not benefit from the faith it would have produced (Heb. 4:2). Many people will spend a lifetime “going to church” and “sitting through another sermon” and never get any benefit from it. As my father used to say, “If you intend to get something out of the sermon, then you need to bring something to put it in!” Simply put, prepare your heart *before* you come to worship by personal study, prayer, and a proper attitude. ***Walk prudently and draw near to hear!***

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