

How Do We Hear?

by Wayne Goff

The Bible has much to say about the **manner** in which people hear the Word of God. Faithful Christians have developed the desirable attitude toward hearing, or else we would *not have obeyed* the Word in the first place!

“For ‘whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.’ How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?” (Romans 10:13–14). It is obvious from this Scripture that **hearing** is **essential** to *calling upon the name of the Lord to be saved!* It matters how we hear!

Jesus said in Mark 4:24: *“Take heed **what** you hear...”* One message is not as good as another. All the various “roads” do not lead to the same place. What we hear is important because it is the Gospel alone that will save us.

Furthermore, Jesus said, *“Take heed **how** you hear...”* (Luke 8:18). Some people bother to hear what is said but they do not intend to take it to heart, nor to obey it. So Jesus warned the honest seeker to be careful *how* he listened. Someone once said “the gospel is as easy as ABC, but it won’t do you any good if you are DEF!”

The Noble Bereans

“These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so” (Acts 17:11). The KJV uses the term **“noble”** for the NKJV’s **“fair-minded.”** The Greek word so translated has the idea of being *literally* “well-born,” so it is suggesting a higher class of people or a higher character of people who actually took the time to hear the message and to certify its accuracy.

The Bereans were free of any prejudice that might hinder a fair hearing of the gospel. The NASV says *“They received the word with great eagerness.”* They were not blindly gullible, but eagerly anxious to hear the gospel and then compare it to the standard of the Old Testament. Unfortunately, those who heard the same gospel message in Thessalonica refused to hear the truth out of pride and prejudice.

It is our duty today, as hearers, to *“search the Scriptures”* to see if what is preached is true. *“Test all things; hold fast what is good”* (1 Thess. 5:21). *“Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world”* (1 John 4:1).

Satan tries to prevent men from hearing the gospel. Many give in to his influence and nonchalantly, indifferently “go to preaching,” do their duty, and go on their way — only to *immediately* forget the sermon! Don’t be one of them, dear reader!

The best listener is the eager listener — he hears, considers, takes notes, and goes home to restudy any questionable or difficult points.

Some Good Qualities

Be attentive (Luke 19:47-48), be respectful (Heb. 12:28), be honest (Matt. 13:15), and make a personal application (2 Sam. 12:1-7). Finally, make a proper application to your own life. The Word heard, and believed but **not practiced** is worthless to our lives! It may take time, it may require sacrifice, but it will be worth it all in the end. Our lives are made better as we grow in grace and knowledge of God’s will.

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