

Tips For Listening During The Sermon

by Wayne Goff

- 1. Take God's Word seriously.** *Every sermon or Bible class is an opportunity for you to learn better what God has revealed for your life.*
- 2. Plan on being a good listener.** *People listen in different ways but those who intend to get something out of a lesson have a plan. Paper and pen, an open Bible, a good seat where you can both see and hear well, and the desire to hear.*
- 3. Focus.** *Once the lesson begins, focus on what is being said. What is the topic? What Scripture is being used? What is the point for me? If you don't make a connection, you will soon lose interest. If you need help for the future, don't be afraid to admit you're a poor listener and you would like some help.*
- 4. Avoid distractions.** *It is a **fact** that the farther back in the auditorium you sit, the more **difficult** it is to pay attention. You are farther from the "action," there are many things going on around you, and it is easy to lose your focus. If there is a valid reason for sitting near the back, then do the best you can. Serious listeners will find a place to sit with the fewest distractions and where they can concentrate the best.*
- 5. Sermons are not a spectator sport.** *You are present to obey God and to listen to His Word and what it means for you. You are present to encourage and support the Gospel, knowing that the church is the "pillar and ground of the truth" (1 Tim. 3:15). You take the lesson personally, as though the speaker had you alone in mind. Some come to the sermon with the idea of being entertained, as though they were going to a movie, and as the lesson progresses, they are only thinking about what grade they will give it: one star, five stars, etc.*
- 6. God is watching.** *He is present at the worship service. True worshipers "are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit" (Eph. 2:22). You are aware of His presence and His omniscience. He sees you and is with you.*
- 7. Study your Bible at home.** *Studying the Bible at home, learning what you can on your own, and coming to worship expectantly is a tremendous help. If you want to get something out of the sermon, then bring something to put it in!*