

## Take Heed How You Hear!

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by Wayne Goff

There is a **tremendous amount of responsibility** placed upon the gospel preacher to “*preach the Word*” (2 Timothy 4:1), “*the whole counsel of God*” (Acts 20:27), and not “*any other gospel*” (Galatians 6:8). In the words of the apostle Paul, “*For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for necessity is laid upon me; yes, woe is me if I do not preach the gospel!*” (1 Corinthians 9:16). “**Woe is me!**” is an interjection of denunciation (presumably from God) for not preaching all that Jesus Christ sent him into the world to preach! Such is applicable to every preacher who speaks in the name of Jesus.

On the other side of the coin, there is a **great deal of responsibility** placed upon the hearer of the Gospel as well! It is a matter of eternal life or eternal death, and all mankind is obligated to hear and obey the Gospel! Jesus said to the apostles, “*Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned*” (Mark 16:15-16). Just because people do not **know** God and the gospel, or do not **want** to hear the gospel, or hear and **reject** the gospel, does *not* mean it is not true! Some think today because modern man rejects the gospel that somehow it is therefore negated. Some think today that if our government passes laws which are God-dishonoring and in rebellion to His written Word, that somehow this trumps God’s authority. But dear reader, nothing could be further from the truth! “*God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth,...*” (Acts 17:24) is how Paul explained the authority of God over man.

“*The earth is the Lord’s, and all its fullness, the world and those who dwell therein. For He has founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the waters.*” (Psalm 24:1-2). There is another Divine “**woe!**” pronounced upon those who reject God’s Message (Matt. 11:21; 18:7; 23:13-16, 23, 25, 27, etc.).

Jesus warned His audience, “*Take heed **what you hear**. With the same measure you use, it will be measured to you; and to you who hear, more will be given*” (Mark 4:24). These words follow Jesus’ parable of the Sower in which He describes the *kind of hearts* on which God’s Word falls. It produces spiritual fruit *only* on the good and honest heart. Some will pervert the gospel of Christ to suit their own whims, desires, and ideas, wresting the Scriptures to their own destruction (2 Peter 3:16). So it is imperative that we take heed to **what we hear!**

Likewise, Jesus said to be careful about *how* you hear. “*Therefore take heed **how you hear**. For whoever has, to him more will be given; and whoever does not have, even what he seems to have will be taken from him*” (Luke 8:18). Some come to hear the gospel preached and quickly turn a deaf ear. God’s Word does not interest them. Some come to hear and enjoy the message but have no intention of being *changed* by it. Some hear the pure gospel with an ear to find that which contradicts their own opinions, and never give their heart an opportunity to learn the real truth. So Jesus teaches us to take heed **how** we hear! Hearing the wrong way can cost you your eternal soul. How frightening a thought that is.

**Come to hear with an honest, sincere and dedicated heart.** “*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*” (Ecclesiastes 5:1). “*But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth*” (John 4:23-24). **Dear reader, are you listening?!**

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