

Tuning God Out?

by Wayne Goff

It is notable in the seven letters to the churches of Asia in Revelation that every single letter concludes with the admonition “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches” (2:7, 11, 17, 29; 3:6, 13, 22). Are God’s people in the habit of tuning out God?

As a gospel preacher of many years, I understand what God is saying to each and every congregation of God’s people. How often do we come to worship and fail to give our undivided attention to the Bible class lesson or a particular sermon? It may be that we have grown accustomed to coming, sitting, listening(?) and going home. We take the lesson for granted.

Others are easily distracted by their small children, or by someone else’s small children, or by people going out or coming in to the auditorium, etc. It is obvious that some do not have a very strong, or long attention span.

Still others come with the idea that any sermon or Bible class lesson is supposed to entertain them and they sit back as judges with their arms folded expecting to be so entertained. It never seems to dawn on them that they are supposed to be an active participant in the class or sermon.

Therefore, we all need to be reminded of the importance of the message of God’s Word every time it is spoken. We must have the enthusiasm that searches the Scriptures daily to see if these things are so (Acts 17:11). We need the confidence in the authority of God’s Word that Jesus displayed when He told the Jews “the Scripture cannot be broken” (Jn. 10:35). We need the resolve to make a personal application to our lives of the truths being taught (2 Cor. 13:5).

Let us heed the admonition: “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.” Our eternal security depends on it!

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