

Hearing Ears?

by Wayne Goff

“He who has ears to hear, let him hear!”

No less than twenty-eight times in the New Testament do we hear Jesus or one of His messengers proclaim: “He who has ears to hear, let him hear!” You know this is an important point then, and all preachers know that their message will not be productive on ears that are dull of hearing.

This warning from Jesus also tells us, as listeners, that we have a responsibility before God, too. It is not just up to the preacher to speak something that is beautiful, interesting, and uplifting -- it is our job to listen carefully, study God’s Word to verify the truthfulness of the message, and then to make a proper application to our own lives. This is what Jesus means when He says “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

Correct hearing is hard work. Think about the time when you were in school and had to listen to the teacher, study the text book, take notes, and spend hours studying for the tests you had to take. All of that was done to assure that you had properly consumed the information given. And if that weren’t enough, you had to do it for every class you took!

Now you also know that you learned based upon the amount of effort you put in. Certainly some teachers or professors were more effective than others. Some were more organized. Some speakers might have kept you spell-bound. But in the end, the results were up to you. So it is with the soul-saving message of the Gospel.

In Romans 10, the writer Paul quotes from the Old Testament to remind us that God has sent His message to us directly from heaven! He says in verses 6-8 that we do not have to ascend up into heaven to get the message, nor do we have to descend into an abyss to find it. It is near you -- in your mouth and heart. How? By the “word of faith which we preach” (Rom. 10:8).

Amazingly, the Creator of the universe has revealed Himself to mankind in the Bible. It contains everything we need to be right and go to heaven, 2 Peter 1:3. But we have to have ears to hear it.

So what is the message we are to hear? Paul tells us:

“If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the Scripture says, ‘Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame’” (Romans 10:9-11).

The Gospel is all about Jesus, God’s Son. He came to earth from heaven and lived a sinless life. He then died on the cross of Calvary for the sins of the world. His blood can wash away our sins both in the mind of God and in our own conscience. Jesus was raised from the dead by God, and is the first to do so and never die again. He will one day raise up our dead bodies from the grave and give us eternal life, if we are true and obedient to His Word. If you believe and obey the Gospel, then you can be saved, Mark 16:16.

The first steps are simple: Hear (Rom. 10:17), Believe (Rom. 10:10), Repent (Acts 2:38), Confess Jesus (Rom. 10:9), be Baptized (Acts 22:16). Then be faithful unto death (Revelation 2:10).

Are you listening?

251203