

**I. Introduction.**

**II. You worship as you listen to God's Word. Acts 2:42**

- A. Why can't we just read the Bible and listen to or read sermons at home on our own?
- B. The Lord Himself addresses His people in a special way as His Word is read and proclaimed in public worship. Heb. 10:24-25
1. The reading of God's Word is an important aspect of worship. 1 Tim. 4:13
  2. We worship God as we hear His Word proclaimed. Acts 2:42
  3. Paul was eager to preach the gospel in person to the Roman Christians. Ro. 1:15
  4. God speaks to us as our leaders proclaim the Word to us. 1 Pe. 4:11a 2 Ti. 4:1 Eph. 2:17 Acts 19:1ff
  5. Preaching involves a personal connection between preacher and congregation.
- C. When God speaks we are to listen carefully. Luke 8:18,8b 1 Pe. 2:1-2 Rev. 2:7
1. Don't be like the foolish Israelites who hardened their hearts against God's Word and His messengers. Deut. 18:15-19 32:46-47 Heb. 2:1 3:7-19
  2. Jesus has sent preachers to proclaim His Word. Rom. 10:8-17
  3. Listen to those whom God has appointed to instruct you. 1 Th. 5:12-13
  4. The Chief Shepherd is feeding you spiritually through His undershepherds.
  5. Worship God as you listen to His Word read and proclaimed.
- D. Don't let your flesh distract you from listening carefully to God's Word.
1. Even if the preacher is not particularly eloquent. 2 Cor. 10:10-11
  2. Even if you think you have heard it all before. Ro. 15:15 1 Co. 4:17 2 Tim. 2:14 2 Pe. 1:12-13 3:1 Jude 1:5 John 14:26 Luke 22:19
  3. Don't be among those who want their ears tickled (entertained). 2 Tim. 4:3-4
  4. Listening to a sermon is hard work.
- E. Come prepared to listen to God speak.
1. Personal reading and meditation on God's Word during the week.
  2. Prayer for the preacher and for the congregation. Ro. 10:30-32 1 Th. 5:25 Eph. 6:19 Col. 4:2-4
  3. Coming with expectancy to hear God's voice in His Word. Ps. 119:17-18
  4. Come physically and mentally prepared to hear God's speak to you. Mt. 26:43,45

**III. Those who publicly read and proclaim God's Word have an awesome responsibility.**

- A. We give attention to the public reading of Scripture. 1 Tim. 4:13 Neh. 8:5-6 Lu. 4:16
- B. Preaching is important. Acts 2:42 20:7 2 Ti. 4:1-8 Ro. 10:13-14,17
1. God's Spirit works through the proclamation of His Word. 1 Pe. 1:23 Js. 1:18
  2. There is no substitute for preaching. 1 Co. 1:21-23 2:2
- C. Preachers are accountable to God. James 3:1 Deut. 18:20
1. We are called to speak God's Word to His people. 1 Pet. 4:10
  2. It takes time and effort to be prepared to proclaim God's Word. 2 Tim. 2:15
  3. Don't preach yourself. 2 Co. 4:5 John 3:28-30
  4. Only those who are qualified should preach. 1 Tim. 3:1-7

- D. What is to be preached? 2 Tim. 4:1-2a**
1. Preach only God's inerrant and all-sufficient Word. 2 Tim. 3:16-17 Isa. 40:8
  2. Preach all of God's Word. Acts 20:27 2 Ti. 4:3 Eph. 6:13 2 Th. 2:14 1 Pe. 5:9
  3. Always preach the Word – *in season and out of season.* 2 Tim. 4:2a
- E. How is God's Word to be preached? 2 Tim. 2:2b,5**
1. Apply the Word boldly – reprove, rebuke and exhort. v. 2b 1 Thess. 5:14
  2. Preach God's Word carefully. v. 2b,5 Js. 3:1ff 2 Ti. 2:15 1 Tim. 4:13-16 5:17-18
  3. Preach patiently. v. 2b,5 2 Tim. 2:24-26
  4. Preach the Word evangelistically. v. 5b Rom. 1:15 6:11 Mt. 28:18ff
  5. Preach passionately. 1 Pe. 4:11
- F. When we preach we seek to:**
1. Faithfully explain the meaning of the text. Neh. 8:5-8
  2. Show how the text is connected to Christ and the gospel. Luke 24:25-27
  3. Make practical applications from the text to the congregation. 2 Tim. 3:16-17
  4. Speak in a way which is clear and understandable.
- G. Why should we preach God's Word? 2 Tim. 4:1,3-8**
1. The time is short. 2 Tim. 4:1 Ps. 90:11
  2. We live in difficult days. 2 Tim. 4: 3-4,6-7,16 3:1-5 1 Ti. 4:1ff Acts 20:29-30 Jer. 5:31 8:11 Judg. 21:25
  3. Your reward will be great. 2 Tim. 4:6-8
  4. God works powerfully through the faithful proclamation of His Word. 1 Co. 1:18 Rom. 1:16-17 Isa. 55:11

**IV. Concluding applications. Acts 2:42 1 Pe. 2:2 Heb. 13:18-19 Rom. 15:30ff Eph. 6:19-20**

**Discussion questions**

1. Why should we come to church to hear the Word when we can read the Bible and experience great preaching through media?
2. Why is the public reading of Scripture important?
3. How should those who read make Scripture reading most edifying?
4. In what sense does Christ speak to us through the preaching of the Word?
5. What are the responsibilities of those who hear sermons?
6. What should you do if the preacher isn't particularly eloquent or organized?
7. What can the hearers do to better worship God when the Word is preached?
8. In what ways are preachers tempted to "tickle ears"?
9. What are the most important components of good preaching?
10. Why should men desire to preach God's Word?