

Title: WSC Question 90: How is the Word to Be Read and Heard, that It May Become Effectual to Salvation?

- I. The doctrine stated:
 - A. WSC Answer 90: That the Word May Become Effectual to Salvation, We Must Attend Thereunto with Diligence, preparation, and prayer; receive it with faith and love, lay it up in our hearts, and practice it in our lives.
 - B. WLC Answer 157: The holy scriptures are to be read with an high and reverent esteem of them; with a firm persuasion that they are the very word of God, and that he only can enable us to understand them; with desire to know, believe, and obey the will of God revealed in them; with diligence, and attention to the matter and scope of them; with meditation, application, self-denial, and prayer.
 - C. WLC Answer 160: It is required of those that hear the word preached, that they attend upon it with diligence, preparation, and prayer; examine what they hear by the scriptures; receive the truth with faith, love, meekness, and readiness of mind, as the word of God; meditate, and confer of it; hide it in their hearts, and bring forth the fruit of it in their lives.

- II. The doctrine proved and explained.
 - A. 1PE 2:1 Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings, [2] As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: [3] If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious.
 - B. PS 119:18 Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law.
 - C. HE 4:2 For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.
 - D. PS 119:11 Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.
 - E. JAS 1:21 Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls. [22] But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. [23] For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: [24] For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. [25] But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.
 - F. You must diligently attend to the reading and hearing of the Word.
 - G. Before the reading and hearing of the Word you must prepare for it.
 - H. While reading and hearing of the Word you must receive it rightly through faith and love.

- I. After the reading and hearing of the Word you must meditate on and put it into practice.
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- III. The doctrine applied.
 - A. If you value your soul and desire that the Word may become effectual to your salvation: Plan to read and hear the Word of God on a consistent basis.
 - B. If you value your soul and desire that the Word may become effectual to your salvation: Prepare yourself before hand through prayer and purification.
 - C. If you value your soul and desire that the Word may become effectual to your salvation: Pay attention to the Word of God which shows both faith in it and love for it.
 - D. If you value your soul and desire that the Word may become effectual to your salvation: Put the Word of God into your heart and into practice in your life.
 - E. If you show contempt for the Word of God, God will show contempt for you. (“If the word preached be not effectual to men's conversion, it will be effectual to their condemnation. The word will be effectual one way or other; if it does not make your hearts better, it will make your chains heavier. We pity those who have not the word preached, but it will be worse with those who are not sanctified by it. Dreadful is their case who go loaded with sermons to hell.” Thomas Watson)

Conclusion: “That the Word May Become Effectual to Salvation, We Must Attend Thereunto with Diligence, preparation, and prayer; receive it with faith and love, lay it up in our hearts, and practice it in our lives.” “Here is the way to get good of the word... Prepare for hearing it; praying earnestly for the blessing of God to accompany it: receive it with faith and love; lay it up in your hearts: and reduce it to practice in your lives.” (Thomas Boston)