

Sermon #124 — Romans Series

Title: **HEARING THE WORD OF GOD**

Text: Romans 10:17

Subject: *Instruction about Hearing the Gospel*

Date: Sunday Morning — July 30, 2017

Reading: *Luke 8:4-18¹*

Introduction:

We read in Romans 10:17...

“So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.”

“Faith cometh by hearing.” — That is the universal testimony of Holy Scripture. **Sinners are saved by the grace of God, through the merits of Christ’s precious blood, and the mighty operation of God the Holy Ghost, through the instrumentality of Gospel preaching.** — “*Faith cometh by hearing.*”

The Lord our God is absolutely sovereign. He saves his people altogether by grace, without any works of their own. No one believes or preaches that any more fully than I do. But there are some who conclude that

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since “*Salvation is of the LORD,*” it is not necessary for sinners to hear the Gospel, repent of sin, and believe on Christ. — God says otherwise. **Our doctrine rests upon the plain statements of Holy Scripture, not upon human logic and reason.** This is what God says about the matter (Romans 10:17; 1:16; 1 Corinthians 1:21; Hebrews 4:12; James 1:18; 1 Peter 1:23-25).

(Romans 10:17) “So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.”

(Romans 1:16) “I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth.”

(1 Corinthians 1:21) “It pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.”

(Hebrews 4:12) “The Word (Logos) of God *is* quick, and powerful, and sharper than any

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twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and *is* a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”

(James 1:18) “Of his own will begat he us with the Word (Logos) Of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.”

(1 Peter 1:23-25) “Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the Word (Logos) of God, which liveth and abideth forever. (24) For all flesh *is* as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: (25) But the Word (Rhema) of the Lord endureth forever. And this is the Word (Rhema) which by the Gospel is preached unto you.”

FOUR FACTS REVEALED

Here are four facts, plainly revealed in the Book of

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God.

1. **There is only one Gospel** (1 Corinthians 15:1-3). It is the Gospel of God concerning his Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, testifying that Jesus is the Christ.

(1 Corinthians 15:1-3) “Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the Gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; (2) By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. (3) For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures.”

2. **No one will ever be saved who does not hear the Gospel.**

God could have chosen to send angels to reveal his grace, or he could have chosen to take his elect to

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heaven upon the merits of Christ's righteousness and shed blood, without ever sending a preacher to them. But he did not choose to do so. **In his infinite and wise sovereignty, God determined to make the preaching of the Gospel an essential instrument in the salvation of his elect.** — *"It pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe."* You may be sure of this — Whenever God intends to call one of his chosen to life and faith in Christ, he will do so by the voice of a preacher.

3. **No one will ever be saved who does not repent of his sin.**

Our Savior said. *"Except ye repent ye shall all likewise perish."* It is not possible for a man to enter into heaven who does not enter by the gate of repentance. Christ himself said so! **Repentance turning to God, being reconciled to God by faith in Christ.** Repentance is a change of mind, a change of masters, and a change of motives. Men may argue and debate the subject, but the Word of God is

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unchanged. You have but two alternatives. You must either Repent or perish!

4. **No one will ever be saved who does not believe on the Lord Jesus Christ.**

It is written, “*He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.*” Faith in Christ is indispensable to salvation. Faith in Christ is the sure token and evidence of God’s electing grace. Whoever believes is elect. Whoever dies in unbelief is not elect. **God’s purpose of grace includes all the means as well as the ultimate end of eternal salvation.**

(1 John 5:1) “Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God.”

(1 John 2:22) “Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son.”

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Mark it down. — There is but one Gospel, and those who are chosen of God and redeemed by Christ will hear the Gospel, repent of their sin, and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. These things are absolutely essential to the salvation of our souls. — “*Faith cometh by hearing.*” Now, let’s look at the next line of our text.

“**And hearing by the Word of God.**” — I want to talk to you about **HEARING THE WORD OF GOD**. I want to give you some plain, simple, biblical instructions on how to hear the preaching of the Gospel. **The Scriptures give us much instruction about this business of hearing the Gospel and how we are to hear it, because much instruction is needed.** Turn over to the first chapter of the Book of James, James 1:19-20, and hear what God says in his Word about **HEARING THE WORD OF GOD**.

(James 1:19) “Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak,

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slow to wrath: (20) For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.”

Whenever you come into the house of God, it should be with an intense desire to hear the Word of God. — The puritan, **Thomas Manton**, rightly

said, “If we were as swift to hear as we are ready to speak there would be less wrath and more profit in our meetings.”

Usually, I find that when people do not profit from the ministry of the Word it is because they practice exactly the opposite of what James here commands. They are slow to hear, swift to speak,

and swift to anger. There are many who seem attend church for no other reason than to find some point of disagreement. They can hardly wait for the preacher to finish talking, so that they can begin and point out his errors. Such people are a continual source of strife and division. They do not worship, and they do everything they can to keep others from worshipping. Let us guard against this tendency of proud, self-

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willed flesh. May God make us swift to hear and slow to speak.

(Ecclesiastes 5:1-2) “Keep thy foot when thou goest to the house of God, and be more ready to hear, than to give the sacrifice of fools: for they consider not that they do evil. (2) Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter anything before God: for God is in heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore, let thy words be few.”

PARABLE OF THE SOWER

In the 8th chapter of Luke’s Gospel narrative the Lord Jesus Christ gave us a word of instruction in this matter. He says, “*Take heed how ye hear.*” Knowing that a great multitude of people were gathered together to hear him out of every city, and knowing that most of them would be hearers only, and not doers of the Word, our Lord spoke to them by a parable. He used the similitude of a farmer who went

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out to sow his seed (Luke 8:4-15). You know the parable.

(Luke 8:4-15) “And when much people were gathered together, and were come to him out of every city, he spake by a parable: (5) A sower went out to sow his seed: and as he sowed, some fell by the way side; and it was trodden down, and the fowls of the air devoured it. (6) And some fell upon a rock; and as soon as it was sprung up, it withered away, because it lacked moisture. (7) And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprang up with it, and choked it. (8) And other fell on good ground, and sprang up, and bare fruit an hundredfold. And when he had said these things, he cried, He that hath ears to hear, let him hear. (9) And his disciples asked him, saying, What might this parable be? (10) And he said, Unto you it is given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God: but to others in parables; that seeing they might not see, and hearing they might not understand. (11) Now the

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parable is this: The seed is the Word (Logos) of God. (12) Those by the way side are they that hear; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the Word (Logos) out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved. (13) They on the rock *are they*, which, when they hear, receive the Word (Logos) with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away. (14) And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of *this* life, and bring no fruit to perfection. (15) But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep *it*, and bring forth fruit with patience.

In the parable, the Savior plainly tells us that few there are, in any group of hearers, who receive any saving benefit from the preaching of the Gospel.

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Three things are evident in the parable of the sower.

1. The preaching of the Gospel is sowing of, the Seed of Life, the Word of God. — Christ the Living Word (Logos) of God comes to men only by the written Word (Rhema) of God, by the instrumentality of Gospel preaching.
2. Only those whose hearts are made good by the regenerating power and grace of God the Holy Ghost receive the Word to the saving of their souls.
3. Once we have received the good seed of the Gospel into our hearts, we must take care that nothing chokes it out and destroys its influence.

Now, hear the warning the Son of God gives to all who sit where you now sit and hear what you now hear.

(Luke 8:18) “Take heed, therefore, how ye hear.”

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Proposition: If we would profit from the ordinance of God, if we would profit spiritually and eternally from the preaching of the Gospel, we must take heed how we hear it.

Divisions: I want to do three things in this message.

1. *First*, I must remind you to make certain that what you hear is the Gospel.
2. *Second*, I want to show you that we ought to seize every opportunity God gives us to hear the Gospel.
3. *Third*, I want to give you some suggestions that, I hope, may help you to hear the Gospel with spiritual profit.

HEAR THE GOSPEL

1st — **I must remind you to make certain that what you hear is the Gospel.** If you care for your soul, the Lord Jesus warns you to **“take heed what ye hear”** (Mark 4:24). You must be careful not only how you hear, but very careful also *“what ye hear.”*

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(Mark 4:24) “And he said unto them, Take heed what ye hear.”

Did you hear the Son of God? — *“Take heed what you hear.”* I hear people and hear from people all over the country and around the world who willfully put themselves and their families under the influence of pagan, Arminian, free will, will-worship, works religion. They try to justify themselves, saying... “We have to go to church somewhere. We must not forsake the assembly of the saints.” ... “The preacher says some good things.” ... “I don’t pay any attention to what they teach.” ... “Our children like to go there.” ... “They have good programs.” ... “My family goes there.” ... “I’ve always gone to church there.” ... “We have a lot of friends there.”

You will be wise to hear God. — **“Take heed what ye hear!”** Our Lord was not just beating the air when he said that. Mark was not just filling up space when he wrote it.

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(1 John 4:1) “Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.”

(2 John 1:7-10) “For many deceivers are entered into the world, who **confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh.** This is a deceiver and an antichrist. (8) Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward. (9) **Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.** (10) If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, **receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed.**”

- If you care for your soul and care for the souls of those under your influence (Wife — Children — Neighbors, etc.), do not subject yourself or them

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to the influence of Arminian, free will, works religion to any degree, for any reason.

- If you care for your soul and care for those under your influence, if you care for the worship and glory of God, addict yourself to the ministry of the Gospel.
 - Divine Sovereignty!
 - Free Grace!
 - Substitution!
 - Redemption Accomplished!
 - God-given Righteousness!
 - Effectual Calling!
 - Infallible Security!

SEIZE THE OPPORTUNITY

2nd — I want to show you that **we ought to seize every opportunity God gives us to hear the Gospel. — Let us take care that nothing chokes out the influence of the Gospel in our lives.**

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- **Like Simeon and Anna**, I want to be found in the house of God, beholding God's Salvation, speaking the praise of Christ, and learning of him.
- **Like Mephibosheth**, I want to be found sitting at the King's table.
- **Like Mary**, I want to be found sitting at his feet, hearing his Word.

Make certain that in hearing, you hear the Gospel. I repeat myself deliberately. I can't tell you

how often I hear from men and women around the world who write to me or call me, asking questions about the things of God, who tell me that the reason they have called me, or the reason they have written to me, is that their pastor does not preach the Gospel.

- If a preacher does not preach the Gospel, don't listen to that preacher!
- If the church you attend does not believe the Gospel, find another church!

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Don't ever delude yourself into thinking that religion is good. Only Gospel religion is good. All

other religion is deadly and damning. It is not going to church that profits our souls. It is not the hearing sermons that profits us. It is not religious chatter that benefits us. It is the preaching of the Gospel, the declaration of our great God, his greatness, his goodness, his glory, and his wondrous works in the Lord Jesus Christ that profits our souls.

(Galatians 6:14) “God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.”

It is from this place, the house of God, that God commands his blessing upon his people (Psalm

133:3). No wonder David sang as he did (Psalm 122:1-9).

(Psalms 122) “I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the LORD. (2)

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Our feet shall stand within thy gates, O Jerusalem. (3) Jerusalem is builded as a city that is compact together: (4) Whither the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD, unto the testimony of Israel, to give thanks unto the name of the LORD. (5) For there are set thrones of judgment, the thrones of the house of David. (6) Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee. (7) Peace be within thy walls, and prosperity within thy palaces. (8) For my brethren and companions' sakes, I will now say, Peace be within thee. (9) Because of the house of the LORD our God I will seek thy good.”

(Psalms 84:10) “For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness.”

CHRIST'S GIFT

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This business of hearing the Word preached is so important that **our risen Savior has specifically given the ministry of the Gospel to his church as one of his chief ascension gifts** (Ephesians 4:11-12).

(Psalms 68:18-19) “Thou hast ascended on high, thou hast led captivity captive: thou hast received gifts for men; yea, for the rebellious also, that the LORD God might dwell among them. (19) Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with benefits, even the God of our salvation. Selah.”

(Ephesians 4:11-12) “And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; (12) For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.”

God has always gifted specific, chosen men for the work of the ministry, to serve the souls of men,

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men whom he has specifically called to this great work.

- Jude tells us, that “*Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied (or preached) concerning the Lord’s coming with ten thousand of his saints to judgment.*”
- Peter tells us that Noah was “*a preacher of righteousness,*” the righteousness of God.
- God never left himself without witness, even in those earliest times, but at sundry times and after in diverse ways, spoke to our fathers by the prophets.
- After the giving of the law, the Lord God constantly separated to himself a certain order of men to preach to, as well as pray for, his people. Israel always had her prophets and her priests.
- Though the Jews were often carried away into captivity, and because of their sins scattered abroad among the nations, yet God faithfully and graciously kept up a remnant of prophets and preachers, like Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel,

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and others, to reprove, instruct, and call men to repentance.

Great as those days were, we live in a better day with better provisions.

- We have the complete Revelation of God in Holy Scripture.
- God’s Church today benefits from more than 2000 years of Gospel preaching.
- In our day, in spite of the rampant heresies of this apostate religious age, we are blessed of God with the clearest, fullest preaching of the Gospel this world has ever known.

When our Lord Jesus Christ, our great High Priest, had through the eternal Spirit offered himself as a full, perfect, sufficient, effectual sacrifice and satisfaction for the sins of his people, and after his resurrection had all power committed to him both in heaven and earth, gave commission to his Apostles, and in them to all succeeding Gospel preachers, to “*go into all the world and preach his Gospel to every*

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creature,” promising to “be with us, (to guide, assist, strengthen, and comfort us always, even) unto the end of the world.”

YOUR RESPONSIBILITY

Now, as it is my responsibility, and the responsibility of God’s servants everywhere, to preach the Gospel (1 Corinthians 9:16), **it is your responsibility to hear the message God sends his servant to deliver.** God does not send a man to beat the air.

Most people are utterly insensible of this great gift! They do despite to the Spirit of grace, crucify the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame, by willfully refusing to attend God’s ordained means of grace! How terrible will the end of such people be? How tormenting it will be to lost, eternally damned sinners in hell that light has come into the world, that the glad tidings of salvation have been so very frequently proclaimed in this place, only

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to be despised. The spiritual manna of the Gospel, this angel's food, is despised as a worthless thing. Our Lord declares that it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon, for Sodom and Gomorrah, than for those who despise the Gospel. Better, that men had never heard of a Savior being born, than after they have heard, not to give heed to the ministry of those who are employed as God's ambassadors to declare the good news of his free, saving grace in Christ!

George Whitfield said, "We may, though at a distance, without a spirit of prophesy, foretell the deplorable condition of such men; behold them cast into hell, lifting up their eyes, being in torment, and crying out, 'How often would our ministers have gathered us, as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings? But we would not. O that we had known in that our day, the things that belonged to our everlasting peace! But now they are forever hid from our eyes.' Thus wretched, thus inconceivably miserable,

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will such be as slight and make a mock at the public preaching of the Gospel.”

Illustration: *Barnard's Sermon
The Hounds of Hell*

SIX SUGGESTIONS

3rd — **I want to give you some suggestions that, I hope, may help you to hear the Gospel with spiritual profit.** — Gospel preaching is the ordinance of God, the means appointed by Christ himself for saving of his people and the building of his Kingdom among men. **This is the method by which God the Holy Spirit does his work in the souls of men.** Consider these facts, and you will gladly hear what I have to say, though what you hear may reprove you and though the reproof may be painful.

1. **Never come to the house of God to gratify your religious curiosity.** When we come to the house of

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God, let us come seeking to know Christ, to hear of Christ, to learn of Christ, and to worship Christ. It is not an honorable thing, but a contemptible thing to sit around and discuss endless questions about nothing, ever learning but never coming to the knowledge of the truth.

(2 Timothy 3:5-7) “Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. (6) For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, (7) Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.”

Flee, flee religious curiosity, as you would flee the plague! Come to the house of God with humility, ready to receive with meekness the engrafted Word, which is able to save your soul.

2. **Listen carefully, attentively, to the message God sends his servant to deliver to your soul.** Give

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earnest heed to the things that are spoken from the Word of God. Take great care to hear what God says to you.

- The Word of a King
- The Pardon of Condemned Felons
- The Reading of a Will

When God descended on Mt. Sinai in terrible majesty, to give his law, the children of Israel sat up and paid attention to his servant Moses! If they were earnest to hear the thunderings, threatenings, and terrors of the law, how gladly sinners ought to sit up and anxiously hear the preacher of the Gospel, as he proclaims the glad tidings of free grace in Christ!

- Free Pardon
- Full Redemption
- Complete Justification
- Everlasting Salvation

I have not been sent here to deliver a dry, insipid lecture on moral philosophy, legal duty, religious history, or creedal accuracy. God Almighty has

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sent me to unfold before you the great mystery of godliness and the mysteries of the Kingdom of his grace. I'm not reading a dime store novel to you. I am proclaiming the Word of the eternal God.

3. Here is a *third* word of counsel we will all be wise to hear. — **Do not allow Satan, or any by whom he is served, to prejudice your mind against faithful men, sent of God to preach the Gospel to you.**

Take heed, my friends, and beware of entertaining any dislike against those the Holy Ghost has made overseers over you. If a man faithfully preaches the Gospel, receive him like the Galatians received Paul, before the Judaizers corrupted them, as an angel of God.

(1 Thessalonians 5:12-13) “And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you; (13) And to esteem them very highly in

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love for their work's sake. And be at peace among yourselves.”

(1 Corinthians 4:1) “Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God.”

(2 Corinthians 2:17) “For we are not as many, which corrupt the Word of God: but as of sincerity, but as of God, in the sight of God speak we in Christ.”

4. *Fourth*, as you ought not to be prejudiced against God's servant, so **you must be careful not to depend too much on a preacher, or think more highly of him than you ought to think.**

God's servants are instruments in his hands, no more and no less, just instruments by which God works in his vineyard.

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(1 Corinthians 3:5-9) “Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers by whom ye believed, even as the Lord gave to every man? (6) I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. (7) So then neither is he that planteth anything, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase. (8) Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour. (9) For we are labourers together with God: ye are God’s husbandry, ye are God’s building.”

(1 Corinthians 3:21-23) “Therefore let no man glory in men. For all things are yours; (22) Whether Paul, or Apollos, or Cephas, or the world, or life, or death, or things present, or things to come; all are yours; (23) And ye are Christ’s; and Christ is God’s.”

5. **Always seek grace from God to personally apply God’s message to your own heart and life.**

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Always presume that the message was prepared with you in mind and spoken to you alone. We are all terribly inclined to look across the room and behold a little splinter in our brother's eye, rather than deal with the two by four in our own.

6. *Sixth*, **if you would receive a blessing from the Lord when you hear his Gospel preached, you should do something before the sermon, during the sermon, and after the sermon.**

Before the sermon, set things in order in your life so that you come to the house of God awake and alert, and pray.

- For the Preacher
- For your Brethren
- For Lost Sinners
- For Yourself

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During the sermon, listen attentively, constantly praying for God to speak to your heart, for Christ's sake.

- A Fresh View of Christ
- Correction
- Comfort
- Reviving

After the sermon, discuss the message with one another, with your family, and ask God to plant the seed sown in your own heart and in the hearts of others, for Christ's sake.

(2 Thessalonians 3:1) “Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the Word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you.”

(Ephesians 6:18-19) “Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; (19) And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open

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my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the Gospel,”

APPLICATION

May God give us grace, that we may seriously apply our hearts to the hearing of the Gospel! I beg of you, my brothers and sisters in Christ, pray for God’s blessings upon your pastor as I endeavor to preach the Gospel to you, and pray for his blessings upon yourselves as you hear the Word of God. **If we would**

but take heed how we hear...

- We might yet, again, see Satan cast out like lightning!
- We might yet see sinners converted!
- We might yet see God work in us, with us, and in our midst!
- We might yet find the Word preached sharper than any two-edged sword, and mighty, through God, to the pulling down of the devil’s strong holds!

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- The Holy Spirit might yet fall on this assembly, as he did when Peter preached the Gospel of Christ!
- The Gospel of God might yet run swiftly and run well from this place, having free course in the hearts of men! — God Almighty, our great God and Savior, is he with whom nothing is impossible. — He who added three thousand to the church on one day in one place, is perfectly capable of doing the same again today, even here!

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever!” — He has promised to be with us always,

even unto the end of the world. I am convinced that the reason we do not receive larger blessings from the presence of the Lord, is not because our all-powerful Redeemer’s hand is shortened, but because we do not expect them.

(Psalms 81:13-14) “Oh that my people had hearkened unto me, and Israel had walked in my

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ways! (14) I should soon have subdued their enemies, and turned my hand against their adversaries.”

(Isaiah 48:17-19) “Thus saith the LORD, thy Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel; I am the LORD thy God which teacheth thee to profit, which leadeth thee by the way that thou shouldest go. (18) O that thou hadst hearkened to my commandments! Then had thy peace been as a river, and thy righteousness as the waves of the sea: (19) Thy seed also had been as the sand, and the offspring of thy bowels like the gravel thereof; his name should not have been cut off nor destroyed from before me.”

Yes, sometimes, our God, to magnify his free grace in Christ Jesus, is found of them that sought him not. Notorious sinners are, sometimes, forcibly plucked as firebrands out of the fire. But this is not God’s ordinary way of acting. **Normally**, he visits those with the power of his Spirit who humbly take heed

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how they hear, seeking to know him, his will, and his way, and sends the careless away not only empty, but hardened!

Take heed, therefore, how you hear. Remember, “*we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ.*” There I will give a strict account of the message I have preached; and you will give strict account of how you have heard! **How will you be able to stand at the bar of an angry, sin-avenging Judge,** and see so many messages you have despised, so many preachers, who once longed and labored for the salvation of your immortal soul, brought out as swift witnesses against you?

But it shall not be so with you who with meekness receive the engrafted Word. You will be your pastor’s joy and crown of rejoicing in the day of our Lord Jesus. In that day, I will present you in holy triumph, faultless, unblameable, and unreprouvable, as a chaste virgin to Christ our common Redeemer,

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saying, “*Behold I, O LORD, and the children which thou hast given me!*”

“Take heed, therefore, how ye hear!”

(James 1:19-21) “Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath:

(20) For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.

(21) Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.”

(Romans 10:17) “So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”

Amen.

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1 Luke 8:4-18

4 And when much people were gathered together, and were come to him out of every city, he spake by a parable:

5 A sower went out to sow his seed: and as he sowed, some fell by the way side; and it was trodden down, and the fowls of the air devoured it.

6 And some fell upon a rock; and as soon as it was sprung up, it withered away, because it lacked moisture.

7 And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprang up with it, and choked it.

8 And other fell on good ground, and sprang up, and bare fruit an hundredfold. And when he had said these things, he cried, He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.

9 And his disciples asked him, saying, What might this parable be?

10 And he said, Unto you it is given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God: but to others in

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parables; that seeing they might not see, and hearing they might not understand.

11 Now the parable is this: The seed is the Word of God.

12 Those by the way side are they that hear; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the Word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved.

13 They on the rock *are they*, which, when they hear, receive the Word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away.

14 And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of *this* life, and bring no fruit to perfection.

15 But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the Word, keep *it*, and bring forth fruit with patience.

16 No man, when he hath lighted a candle, covereth it with a vessel, or putteth *it* under a bed; but setteth *it* on a candlestick, that they which enter in may see the light.

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17 For nothing is secret, that shall not be made manifest; neither *anything* hid, that shall not be known and come abroad.

18 Take heed therefore how ye hear: for whosoever hath, to him shall be given; and whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken even that which he seemeth to have.