

Taking God At His Word
Week 1 (06-28-15) Class Notes
Memory Verse: Eph 4:29

On Listening Effectively

Listening is a serious matter - a life or death business. -Luke 8:18
At the throne of judgment there will be no opportunity to embrace truth that was rejected.
-Rev. 20:11-15

Distractions - Be prayerfully aware of same!

How to listen effectively?

1-Expectantly:

God's authority is given to faithful pastors/teachers who prayerfully discern the Word.

-1 Pet. 4:11

Jesus governs His church through the written word preached and taught.

-1 Pet. 1:23-25

God through His Holy Spirit enables us to open our ears to receive the revealed Word as the actual voice of God. Neh. 8:5

2-Critically (discerningly):

Effective listening is active - not passive. Critically listening is engaging our minds to ensure that what is being taught is what the passage actually says. -Acts 17:11

Note taking is a way to focus more precisely on the lesson to better remember what was taught.

God's Holy Spirit empowers us to listen, think and discern clearly what is truly taught from the Bible.

3-Humbly:

We're to bow the knee in submission when the Word is taught.

God's Word cuts to the core, so faithful teaching will cause offense. Heb. 4:12, 13; Luke 11:45

Admitting God knows more than we do, acknowledges our need to change/grow.

4-Together:

As the physical assembly (local church) we're to hear the Word taught and preached as one.

-Deut. 4:10

Listening together makes us accountable to one another for our response.

The result: encouragement to "stir up" one another to do what the Bible instructs us to do.

-Heb. 10:24

The purpose of God's Word is to make & shape His people - in practice, the local church.

5-Practically:

Hearing the Word taught-opens our hearts to respond to His message.

-changes us into Christ likeness -Rom. 8:29

-profits us -2 Tim. 3:16

for teaching (what we ought to believe)

for rebuking (what we ought not believe)

for correcting (how we ought not to behave)

for instructing in righteous (how we ought to behave)

