

Hearing is a Divine Art

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I. Introduction. (Luke 8)

A. Parable of the Sower.

II. God decreed that men should be saved through hearing the message. (1 Corinthians)

A. A man must hear to be saved.

B. God proceeds according to divine laws.

1. Man can change.

2. Man can change by learning something.

III. Redemption is a divine thing, but salvation is a divine-human thing.

A. God acted alone in redemption.

B. Our salvation though is conditional upon our response to God's declaration of intention.

IV. God is not going to do a confirmatory work.

A. God has confirmed the truth.

B. The sending of the Holy Spirit was the only needed confirmatory act.

C. We need to look out for how we hear because there are four kinds of hearers. (Luke 8)

1. Those like the wayside.

a. The words fall and lay there - they do not sink in.

b. The Devil comes and takes the seeds away.

c. We too often use clichés that have no meaning and keep our hearts from receiving the truth.

2. Those that have no root. Always be wary of those that convert too easily. They often convert back just as easily.

3. Those that fall among thorns.

a. The ones that are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of the life that never bring any fruit for perfection.

b. What are our thorns?

c. It is likened to the newlyweds whose passion is overwhelmed by other cares.

d. Our spiritual life is easily choked by riches.

4. Those that fall on good ground.

a. They bring forth fruit with patience.

b. We want our growth to go up like a rocket, but the Lord asks us to be patient.

D. The hearers paralleled.

1. There are dull hearers.

a. There are diminishing returns to hearing truth.

2. There are the critical hearers.

a. Those who are more concerned with the grammar.

3. There are the forgetful hearers.

a. Those who are more concerned with something else than what is said in the pulpit.

b. Some things ought to take immediate priority.

c. There is infinite power in the gospel to save, to redeem and to purify.

d. There is only one hell, and it is an awful thought that we would be destined for it.

4. Those that hear truly.

E. We must take heed how we hear - the Lord commands that we do.

Application questions.

1. How is it that our salvation is conditioned upon our hearing? Explain.

2. How does the Parable of the Sower reveal the variety of responses to the gospel? What are these responses? Which response characterizes you best?

3. Why is it that there must be patience for those that fall on good ground? How can you cultivate patience for fruit in your own life while setting your sights upon the goal?
