

# The Bulletin

## Meeks Street Church of Christ

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July 17, 2022

### **“Take Heed How You Hear”**

By Brad Phillips

While Jesus was teaching His disciples, He said, *"For nothing is secret that will not be revealed, nor anything hidden that will not be known and come to light. Therefore take heed how you hear. For whoever has, to him more will be given; and whoever does not have, even what he seems to have will be taken from him"* (Luke 8:17-18). Here, Jesus urged His disciples to "take heed to how they hear." So with that thought in mind, let's examine some ways in which we should hear. Starting with, we should...

#### **Hear Attentively.**

When Ezra read the Book of the Law of Moses to the children of Israel, it is written that, *"...the ears of all the people were attentive to the Book of the Law"* (Nehemiah 8:3). You see, we too need to be attentive when others teach and preach from God's all inspired word. Why? Well, for our own understanding and benefit, and to make sure that the things that are being taught are in accordance to God's will.

#### **Hear Reverently.**

Reverently is defined as, "something done in a deeply respectful way." When we come together to worship God, and to hear a portion of His word proclaimed, we should always do so reverently, and we should not only have respect for God, but also for the others who are among us. Therefore, hold onto these words of the inspired Psalmist, *"God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, And to be held in reverence by all those around Him"* (Psalm 89:7).

#### **Hear Honestly.**

In the fourth chapter of Mark we read about the parable of the sower, and in this parable Jesus talks about four different types of soil (i.e. heart conditions), which the seed (i.e. the word of God) falls upon. He then explained, *"But these are the ones sown on good ground, those who hear the word, accept it, and bear fruit: some thirty fold, some sixty, and some a hundred"* (Mark 4:20). You see, those who honestly hear and receive God's word, and then bear fruit, are those that as Jesus said, "are sown on good ground."

#### **Hear Inquiringly.**

The term inquiringly denotes, "being inquisitive in seeking facts." We have an example of some who inquiringly heard the preaching of the apostle Paul in Acts 17. Here, we find that the Bereans did not just take Paul's word for what he was preaching, but as Luke recorded they, *"...received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so"* (Acts 17:11).

Therefore, just as the Bereans inquired about Paul's preaching by searching the Scriptures, we too likewise need to do the same today, and be inquiring hearers.

#### **Hear Eagerly.**

Many of us eagerly seek out things that we enjoy, and we need to have the same attitude when it comes to the hearing of God's word. For in Acts 8 we read where Philip was eager to teach the word of God, and the eunuch was likewise eager to learn, just as Luke writes, *"So Philip ran to him, and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah, and said, Do you understand what you are reading? And he said, How can I, unless someone guides me? And he asked Philip to come up and sit with him"* (Acts 8:30-31). May we too, like Philip, and the eunuch, be eager to teach and hear God's all inspired word.

These are just a few examples to help us take heed to how we hear. Now the question is, how is your hearing?

## **“Narrow-mindedness”**

By Cecil F. Cox

Do you like narrow-minded people? I believe the majority of the people, if they answered that question honestly, would say “No!” Such an attitude reflects the desire to prejudice or belittle those who sincerely seek to go by the rules and laws in life. But I believe many of us appreciate narrow-minded people when we stop and really look at the facts. Check a few of these facts with me:

- A pharmacist who fills the prescription according to the doctor's orders and not according to some idea he may have.
- An automobile driver who operates his vehicle according to the rules of the road in order to have a safe trip.
- A builder who builds a house according to the blueprint. If he does, there will be no surprises as to the looks and proper function of the building.
- A game official who insists on calling the game according to the rules and not giving favor to one team or the other.
- A Chemist who insists on following the prescribed formulas to bring about the desired reaction and results.

We can see that the broad-minded attitude has no place in these things and many others we could mention. There is no room at all for the attitude which suggests that one may change rules and laws to please his own desires.

With these comments in mind, we can see and appreciate the preacher who insists upon a "thus says the Lord" and bases his sermons upon "book, chapter and verse." Sometimes such a one may be considered narrow-minded. But such a tactic is used to prejudice the hearer against one who insists upon following the Word of God in all that he teaches and practices in religion.

For example, one may insist that faith in Jesus Christ is essential to everlasting life, and gives John 3:16 as his proof: *"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."* He teaches that one must repent of his sins and gives Paul's words to the certain philosophers at Mars Hill: *"Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent..."* (Acts 17:30) He may also insist that a confession that Jesus Christ is God's Son is "unto salvation" as cited in Romans 10:9-10: *"that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confessions is made unto salvation"*. Too, he shows that one must be baptized for the remission of sins, giving 1 Peter 3:20-21 for his proof: *"There is also an antitype which now saves us – baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ..."* Ananias told Saul of Tarsus, *"And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord."* (Acts 22:16).

What are you going to say about such a one who teaches these things? Are you going to say he is "narrow-minded and by such seek to prejudice people against the Word of God? I say, "Thank God for individuals who are determined not to follow their own rules in religion. We do not need men who teach their own ideas and lead souls away from the truth and will of God.

I wish to leave with you the words of Paul in Acts 20:32: *"And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified."*



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**And Our Facebook Page.**

For sermon videos, articles, and announcements.

**News and Notes:** Sick and recovering: Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Chad Harris, Daniel Holloway, Debbie Keplinger, Sam Johnson, J F Dancer, Robbie, Sheila, Sherry Doles, Nannette Chancellor, Sandi Poole, Nathan Cox, Wesley Trimble, and Robert Howard (Doug and Pat's son in law).

Janis Johnson (Sherry's sister).

**Those Who Serve:**

**Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:**

**Opening Prayer:** Tim Harris Jr.  
**Preaching:** Adam Harris  
**Sermon #1:** "Even Jesus"

**Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:**

**Workbook:** Jerry Kennemur  
Ephesians (Chris Reeves)  
**Starting Page & Question:** Page #30, Question #6

**Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:**

**Announcements:** Paul Johnson  
**Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading:** Russell Briggs  
*Psalm 7:1-8*  
**Song Leader:** Jerry Kennemur  
**Lord's Supper:** Doug George  
**Assisting:** — —  
**Singing Service:** *Men of the Congregation Lead Singing*  
**Invitation:** Fred Johnson  
**Closing Prayer:** Tim Harris Sr.

**Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.**

**July 20th:**

**Auditorium Bible Class:** Paul Johnson  
**Workbook:** Jeremiah & Lamentations  
(John Humphries)  
**Starting Page & Question:** Page #45, Question #1  
**Invitation:** Doug George  
**Song Leader:** Paul Busby  
**Closing Prayer:** Blake Briggs



**Memory Verse of the Week:**

**Acts 8:12 (NKJB)**

“But when they believed Philip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized.”