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**THE IMPORTANCE
OF HEARING**

**No. 16
of
The Gospel Tract Series**

**By Eugene S. Smith
Dallas 8, Texas**

Presented by



THE IMPORTANCE OF HEARING

No. 16 of The Gospel Tract Series

Since it is written, "The just shall live by faith," (Rom. 1:17) and also, "Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God," (Rom. 10:17), it is important that every man should hear.

In all of God's dealing with man he has desired him to hear his word. We read in Matthew 17:5 the last words to this earth from the lips of Jehovah as he spoke from heaven. These words are, "This is my beloved son in whom I am well pleased, Hear Ye Him." As in ages past so in this day of grace God commands us to hear his word as spoken by the Christ.

"God having of old time spoken unto the fathers in the prophets by divers portions and in divers manners, hath at the end of these days spoken unto us by his Son." (Heb. 1:1,2). Here is the instruction needed by all men today that they may heed the divine injunction, "Take heed what ye hear" (Mark 4:24). The words of Christ, the New Testament, these are the words of God for us today and it is this that we must hear.

"It was God's good pleasure through the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe." (1 Cor. 1:21). God placed his power to save men in the word and the word must therefore be heard. "For I am not ashamed of the gospel: for it is the power of God unto salvation." (Rom. 1:16). Paul speaks of "the sword of the spirit which is

the word of God," (Eph. 6:17), so it is apparent that by the word the will of God is accomplished in the lives of those who hear.

However, we find another commandment from the Lord on this subject. In Luke 8:18 we read, "Take heed therefore how ye hear." The manner of our hearing is a very important matter. We must have the proper attitude of heart as we hear the word of God lest it become, "a savor from death unto death." God's word can be "a savor from life unto life" if heard right but is also brings the condemnation of God if heard in the wrong attitude of heart.

When Saul had failed to hear and heed the word of God in the destruction of the Amalekites Samuel coming forth to meet him pronounced one of God's great and unvarying principles. As he heard the lowing of the cattle and the bleating of the sheep which Saul had saved for sacrifice he said, "Hath, Jehovah as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of Jehovah? Behold to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams." (1 Sam. 15:22). That principle has remained unchanged through the ages and it is as important to hearken to the voice of Jehovah to-day as it has ever been in any day.

God's work, as done by the Spirit, is accomplished in the individual as he hears the word of God. According to John 16:8 the Spirit is to convict the world in respect of sin, righteousness

and judgment. This is accomplished by the hearing of the word for on the day of Pentecost when the Spirit came to do his work we note these significant facts. The Spirit spoke through the apostles. (Acts 2:4). The apostles guided by the Spirit preached the gospel. (Acts 2:22-36). The gospel preached wrought conviction in the hearts of the hearers for we read "Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their hearts." (Acts 2:37). The Spirit spoke through men and the word brought a conviction of sin to those who heard.

More than this the word continued its operation in their conversion for as they asked Peter and the apostles, "What shall we do?" they were told in certain words: "Repent ye, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ unto the remission of your sins; and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38). Here was the way of life to poor, lost sinners and we read of their entering into the life in verse 41 for it reads, "They then that received his word were baptized." As the hearing of the word produced conviction so the reception of the word produced obedience and of these people Peter later said, "Seeing ye have purified your souls in your obedience to the truth." (1 Pet. 1:22), it is evident that the hearing of the word wrought their salvation.

In the time of Christ, personal ministry in the earth he condemned as hypocritical those who closed their ears to the word of God. The will of God

is made known in his word and must be heard if the blessings of God are to be received. "It is written in the prophets, they shall all be taught of God" (John 6:44). There can be no pleasing God without the hearing of his word that it may move our hearts to comply with his will. The teaching that God would have done is to be by the word of truth and thus he can bestow his blessing in the lives of individuals.

As it is important for the alien sinner to hear the word, so it is important that the child of God hear it too. Christians are to walk in "newness of life" (Rom. 6:4) and the rule of this new life must be the word of God. Twenty-one books have been written, especially to Christians to tell them how to walk as Christians. These epistles from the pens of inspired men are the word of God and every child of Jehovah is bound to hear these words. "If any man thinketh himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him take knowledge of the things which I write unto you that they are the commandment of the Lord.

"But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deluding your own selves" (Jas. 1:22). More than this. Christ, in Matt. 7:21-28 has classed as foolish all who hear the word and do it not while he classes as wise all that hear and do the will as commanded.

Therefore, let us hear the word of God. Let us realize that God has spoken.

Let us know that his will for us has been spoken in these days through his Son. Let us know his commandments and do them. To the one who is a Christian he says, "Believe in me" (John 14:1), "Repent or perish" (Luke 13:5), "Confess me before men" (Matt. 10:32) and "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved" (Mark 16:16).

This primary obedience brings one "into Christ" (Rom. 6:3; Gal. 3:27) and he "in Christ" is to walk in newness of life." (Rom. 6:4). "Old things have passed away, behold all things have become new" (2 Cor. 5:17) and the new creature is to walk, "soberly, righteously and Godly in this present world" (Titus 2:12). God hath spoken:
Hear his word.

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