

O, BE CAREFUL LITTLE EARS

To be able to hear is a wonderful blessing, often taken for granted until it goes. God created man with the ability to hear. Man in the beginning heard the voice of God directly. Man enjoyed the sweet singing birds in the garden of Eden. How pleasant it must have been! Until woman was created, only God and the animals heard the voice of man. After she had been made from the rib of man, they then spoke to each other. How wonderful for Adam and Eve to have been able to have heard each other's voices! Harmonious sounds and voices in the garden of delight were heard until the woman heard the old Serpent, the devil's words as he asked, "Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?" (Gen. 3:1.) She succumbed to his words, and sin entered into the world.

From the time that the Tempter first spoke until time shall be no more man must be careful what he hears. He must be discerning in what he hears. Someone has said, "Do not believe everything you hear, and only half of what you see." Gullibility is a dangerous trait.

Jesus emphasized in the parable of The Sower the importance of hearing. A sower went forth to sow; and when he sowed, seeds fell by the wayside, on the stony ground, the thorny ground and the good ground. Each ground represents different kinds of hearts. All heard, but the wayside soil represents the heart that does not understand. The devil, represented by the fowls, came and removed the word out of the heart of this individual. How does the devil do this? Sometimes, he uses words. The stony ground is shallow ground where the word cannot grow. Some people's hearts are too shallow to grow spiritually as they ought. The thorny ground represents one who is so busy with the affairs of this life that he chokes the word of God out of his life. He just has no time to hear the word of God. He is the individual whose life is too busy to make time for God; however, he will take time to die. The good ground represents the one who hears the word, understands it and applies it to his life, bringing forth fruit. Mark's account of this parable says, "And he said unto them, Take heed what ye hear: with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you: and unto you that hear shall more be

given. (Mark 4:24.) Luke's account concludes by saying, "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." (Luke 8:18.)

To have been able to have heard Jesus while here on earth surely would have been a marvelous blessing. In the synagogue of his hometown of Nazareth the people heard him. Luke records, "And all bare him witness, and wondered at the gracious words which proceeded out of his mouth. And they said, Is not this Joseph's son?" (Luke 4:22.) When Jesus went to Capernaum and taught on the sabbath days the people "were astonished at his doctrine: for his word was with power." (Luke 4:32.) What a great opportunity it must have been for people to have heard Jesus' Sermon on the Mount! The people "were astonished at his doctrine. For he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes (Matt. 7: 28-29). After our Lord's resurrection he walked and conversed with two disciples from Jerusalem to Emmaus, a distance of about seven miles. When he vanished from their sight, they said one to another, "Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?" (Luke 24:32.)

Though we cannot hear Jesus personally, we can "hear" his words, the New Testament. The writer of Hebrews says, "God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son...." (Heb. 1:1-2). Just as the voices of the prophets were heard in the reading of the Old Testament (Acts 13:27), so we can "hear" the voice of Jesus when the New Testament is read. Likewise, we can hear the apostles and prophets by listening to the New Testament, inspired and preserved for our benefit.

To "hear" sometimes carries the idea of to "receive." There are some things which we should not receive, or hear. We should not hear, receive or accept a lie. The young prophet from Judah who had gone up to Bethel to prophesy against Jeroboam received the lie of the old prophet; and, consequently, the young prophet lost his life (1 Kings 13). God

had told the young prophet to go back home a different way and not to eat with anyone, but the old prophet "lied unto him."

If an elder in the Lord's church has done wrong, Paul says, "Against an elder receive not an accusation, but before two or three witnesses. Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear." (1 Tim. 5:18-19). This is following the steps, in principle, of Matthew 18:15-17. If a brother has sinned and refuses to repent, the matter is to be taken to the church, and ultimately withdrawal of fellowship is to follow (2 Thess. 3:6.)

We should not hear, that is receive, false doctrine. Those who are susceptible to receiving false doctrine are those who do not have a love for the truth. Paul alluded to a departure from the truth when he wrote:

"And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness" (2 Thessalonians 2:8-12).

It is a dangerous thing to hear false teachers. Paul wrote, "Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple." (Rom. 16:17-18.)

To the seven churches of Asia we hear the refrain, "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches."

Ben F. Vick, Jr. from *The Informer*

BIRTHDAY

Kristen Bright, 06-10.

ANNIVERSARY

Curtis and Paula Stillwell, 06-09.

ILL

Ledgia Campbell will have surgery in Oklahoma City on June 7. Elizabeth Ray, Clara Scott's sister, is in St. Joseph Hospital. Kim Clark is in the ICU at Lee's Summit Hospital. Her family has requested limited visitation. Those battling cancer: Diane Cannon, Kim Clark and Ledgia Campbell. Please remember these in your prayers, as well as: Janice Carter, Allen Scott, and Ralph and Helen Franklin.

HOME BOUND

Bob Adams is in Room D-4 of the Johnson County Nursing Center in Olathe. Marion Stone is at home. Please remember these in your prayers and visitation.

OUT OF TOWN

The Carter family was on vacation last week in Michigan and Chicago. Melissa Cole is in Oklahoma this weekend. The Hanson's are in Canada for the summer. Myron Nebergall was in Oklahoma visiting his son last week. The Nemechek's are visiting relatives this weekend. The Stillwell's are on vacation this week.

POT LUCK DINNER

Our monthly Pot Luck Dinner will be held this Sunday, June 4 following our AM worship. All are invited to come and enjoy the good food and good company!

MEN'S BUSINESS MEETING

Our monthly Men's Business Meeting will be held next Sunday, June 11 following our AM worship. All men of the congregation are encouraged to attend.

ATTENDANCE

Sunday AM, 56; Sunday PM, 43; Wednesday PM, 42.

Those To Serve

June 4, 2006

BUILDING AND COMMUNION..... Tullis

MORNING WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS..... Joel Nelson
SONG LEADER..... George Thomas
OPENING PRAYER Charles Tullis
PRESIDE..... John Carter
ASSIST..... David Parish
ASSIST..... Allen Scott
CLOSING PRAYER..... Gary Cole

EVENING WORSHIP

OPENING PRAYER John Dodson
CLOSING PRAYER..... Ken Greer
LORD'S SUPPER..... John Carter

WEDNESDAY June 7th

SONG LEADER..... Jeff Nemechek
INVITATION Joel Nelson

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday

Bible Study 9:30 AM
Morning Worship 10:30 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Ladies Bible Study 10:00 AM
Bible Study 7:00 PM

Preacher: Ted J. Thrasher

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