

Morning Sermon Outline
February 7, 2016, Romans 10:17
"Hearing God's Word"

I. *Hearing vs. seeing – Deuteronomy 4*

If you read Deuteronomy 4 you will note that Moses places a great emphasis on hearing God's words, laws and statutes vs seeing any image or idol -

"Now, O Israel, listen to the statutes and the judgments which I teach you to observe, that you may live, (Deuteronomy 4:1 NKJ)

² "You shall not add to the word which I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you. (Deuteronomy 4:2 NKJ)

"Gather the people to Me, and I will let them hear My words, that they may learn to fear Me all the days they live on the earth, and *that* they may teach their children."¹¹ "Then you came near and stood at the foot of the mountain, and the mountain burned with fire to the midst of heaven, with darkness, cloud, and thick darkness.¹² "And the LORD spoke to you out of the midst of the fire. You heard the sound of the words, but saw no form; you only heard a voice.¹³ "So He declared to you His covenant which He commanded you to perform, the Ten Commandments; (Deuteronomy 4:10-13 NKJ)

¹⁵ "Take careful heed to yourselves, for you saw no form when the LORD spoke to you at Horeb out of the midst of the fire,¹⁶ "lest you act corruptly and make for yourselves a carved image in the form of any figure: the likeness of male or female, (Deuteronomy 4:15-16 NKJ)

"Take heed to yourselves, lest you forget the covenant of the LORD your God which He made with you, and make for yourselves a carved image in the form of anything which the LORD your God has forbidden you."²⁴

"For the LORD your God *is* a consuming fire, a jealous God. (Deuteronomy 4:23-24 NKJ)

³³ "Did any people ever hear the voice of God speaking out of the midst of the fire, as you have heard, and live? (Deuteronomy 4:33 NKJ)

³⁶ "Out of heaven He let you hear His voice, that He might instruct you; on earth He showed you His great fire, and you heard His words out of the midst of the fire. (Deuteronomy 4:36 NKJ)

⁴⁰ "You shall therefore keep His statutes and His commandments which I command you today, ... (Deuteronomy 4:40 NKJ)

Why is God's Word and commands placed against images and idols?

1. *Because God Word is TRUTH –*

¹⁷ "Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. (John 17:17 NKJ)

2. *Images and idols are from our imagination, and because God is real, they are all lies and delusions –*

"What profit is the image, that its maker should carve it, The molded image, a teacher of lies, That the maker of its mold should trust in it, To make mute idols? (Habakkuk 2:18 NKJ)

For the idols speak delusion; The diviners envision lies, And tell false dreams; They comfort in vain. Therefore *the people* wend their way like sheep; They are in trouble because *there is no shepherd.* (Zechariah 10:2 NKJ)

²⁷ "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. (John 10:27 NKJ)

II. *Hearing, obeying, keeping God's Law vs. the counsel of ungodly men –*

Blessed *is* the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful;² But his delight *is* in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night.³ He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper.⁴ The ungodly *are* not so, But *are* like the chaff which the wind drives away.⁵ Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.⁶ For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, But the way of the ungodly shall perish. (Psalm 1:1-6 NKJ)

Note the great difference!

1. *The Blessed (Truly and eternally happy man) is blessed for avoiding ungodly counsel, etc... Psalm 1:1*
2. *He is also blessed for his delight in God's Law – Psalm 1:2*

How wonderfully He is blessed –

1. *He is a planted tree, meaning cared for*

2. *By rivers of water, meaning in situation conducive to health a growth*
3. *He is a tree, a living, stable and fruitful things*
4. *He is not chaff, which is blown by the wind*
5. *He is separated from the ungodly in the day of judgment*
6. *The LORD knows him*

There is a way *that seems* right to a man, but its end *is* the way of death. (Proverbs 16:25 NKJ)

III. *God's Word is the Seed of Faith, it is the Seed of the New Birth –*

¹¹ "Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. ¹² "Those by the wayside are the ones who hear; then the devil comes and takes away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved. ¹³ "But the ones on the rock *are those* who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, who believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away. ¹⁴ "Now the ones *that* fell among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity. ¹⁵ "But the ones *that* fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep *it* and bear fruit with patience. (see Luke 8:4b-15 NKJ)

having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever, ²⁴ because "All flesh *is* as grass, And all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, And its flower falls away, ²⁵ But the word of the LORD endures forever." Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you. (1 Peter 1:23-25 NKJ)

IV. *Hearing God's Word with ungodly, faithless ears, won't work –*

Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. ² For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. ³ For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God. ⁴ For Christ *is* the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes. ⁵ For Moses writes about the righteousness which is of the law, "The man who does those things shall live by them." ⁶ But the righteousness of faith speaks in this way, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?'" (that is, to bring Christ down *from above*) ⁷ or, "'Who will descend into the abyss?'" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). ⁸ But what does it say? "The

word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart " (that is, the word of faith which we preach): ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. ¹¹ For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame." ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. ¹³ For "whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved." ¹⁴ How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? ¹⁵ And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!" ¹⁶ But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed our report?" ¹⁷ So then faith *comes* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. ¹⁸ But I say, have they not heard? Yes indeed: "Their sound has gone out to all the earth, And their words to the ends of the world." ¹⁹ But I say, did Israel not know? First Moses says: "I will provoke you to jealousy by *those who are* not a nation, I will move you to anger by a foolish nation." ²⁰ But Isaiah is very bold and says: "I was found by those who did not seek Me; I was made manifest to those who did not ask for Me." ²¹ But to Israel he says: "All day long I have stretched out My hands To a disobedient and contrary people." (Romans 10:1-21 NKJ)

How the Word can be read and heard in the wrong way:

1. *The Word was never meant to establish human righteousness – Romans 10:1-7*
2. *The Word was given to point us to the Savior Jesus Christ - Romans 10:8-13*
3. *God's Word was meant to be preached and taught by preachers, teachers, evangelists, parents, etc... - Romans 10:14-15*
4. *Was not Israel taught? – Romans 10:16-21 Yes they were! Why they were not saved?*
 - A. *The Word fed their pride not their humility*
 - B. *They did not think they needed a Savior*
 - C. *The Word has a purpose of judgment as much as salvation -*

¹² For the word of God *is* living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. ¹³ And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we *must* give account. (Hebrews 4:12-13 NKJ)

Arnold Brevick