

# Sermons: How to Be a Good Listener

2 Timothy 3:16 – 4:5

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# Purposes for the Bible

- Two things about the Bible
  1. What it Is – God's Word
  2. What it Does – Equips God's Man
- Two things that are in relation to God in this passage:
  1. The Word of God --- that is...what God has given
  2. The Man of God --- that is...to whom God has given it

# Word of God / Man of God

- Two things about where the Word of God (or the Scripture) comes from:
  1. Given by God – not at anyone else's suggestion or request
  2. Inspired/breathed out by God – it is the Word of God
- Two areas about Man of God are addressed
  1. Character – who are you in Christ (click)
  2. Conduct – what do you do as a believer – how do you act?

# Belief Leads to Behavior

- One's life is focused in two areas:
  1. What you BELIEVE
  2. How you BEHAVE
- Method – Two Positive and Two Negative instructions given in juxtaposition to each other
  - Positive
  - Negative
  - Negative
  - Positive

# Purpose for the Word of God

- + Doctrine – Instruction in what is true
  - Romans 1 – 11
- Rebuke – for conduct unbecoming a child of God
  - Galatians
- Correction – fixing improper understanding that leads to improper conduct
  - Philipians
- + Instruction in Righteousness – knowing what is true and having misperceptions corrected, how do you then live?
  - 1 Corinthians

# Sermons: How to be a Good Listener – 2 Tim 4:1-5

- **God** Has Spoken – Listen with awe that GOD has sent His herald with His Word
- God ***Has Spoken*** – Listen with awe to the Word God has sent
- Other's Would Lead You Astray – Stay away from distractions
- Your Servant is God's Servant First – Pray for Him

# An American Preacher in China

- “Take off your shoes please”
- “Because of our suffering for the Gospel, our respect for God is so high, that when you enter the pulpit to preach, you are entering holy ground.”
- “We always remove our shoes”
- Have we, in America, have become so used to plenty, that we’ve lost the sense of awe due to the Provider of the plenty

# Listen with Awe of God, 4:1 *f.*

- “charge” emphatic form of “warn”
  - The preacher is accountable to the God of the Universe for what he says
  - The listener would do well to realize that it is God who is speaking through this man
- The Word we have received has come from God, not a man.
  - We ought to receive it as such
  - Cf., 1 Th 2:13

# Listen in Awe of God's Word, v2

- The herald's job is to proclaim God's Word
- The listener's responsibility is to the King of the Universe
  - Not to the messenger of the King
- If the preacher is preaching the Word of God, your problem is with God, not the preacher.
- God orchestrates the choices of texts

# Problem of the Message Texts

- “I don’t like what I’m hearing”
  - Take it up with God
- At the time of judgment – “I never heard that before...”
  - Was it because you chose to avoid the assembling of the brethren?
  - Maybe you have no respect for anyone else?
  - Maybe you just weren’t listening?
  - Maybe you had more important things to discuss with the person sitting near you?

# Purpose of the Text Messages

- To make corrections in the man of God
- To exhort, is to come alongside with whatever is needed (rebuke, reproof, encouragement, comfort, counsel, etc.)
- Our Chief Exhorter is the Holy Spirit (Jn 15:26) whom Jesus sent from the Father.
  - Allow the Spirit to apply the Word to your life
- Accept the exhortation with a “poor and contrite spirit.” Is 66:2