

WITH GOD, TO HEAR MEANS TO OBEY

Jeremiah 22:29 James 1:22-24

Introduction: There are a lot of people around us today wanting to be heard - the government, education institutions, businesses, sports, television, newspapers, salespersons, etc. not to exempt our own selves, for we, too like to be heard at times. However, with God, "hearing" His Word, hearing what He has to say, is not only listening, but He demands action, obedience and He warns us that NOBODY is without excuse for not doing what He says. When YOU heard the Word of God, what did you do?

I. WHAT DOES GOD HAVE TO SAY TO US IN HIS WORD?

1. God tells us that we are all condemned, that we have all sinned, and therefore we are all under His condemnation.
- *Romans 5:12; 3:23*
2. God also tells us that all of us are invited to come to Him for our needs.
- *Isaiah 55:1-3; Matthew 11:28-30*
3. God tells us that we can have eternal life with Him.
- *John 1:12; 5:24; 10:27-29*

II. THERE ARE THINGS THAT HINDER US FROM HEARING GOD'S WORD

1. Everybody loves things that are sinful and those things can and will cause us not to hear God's Word.
- *Matthew 13:22; John 3:19-20*
2. Satan is busy and successful in keeping the Word of God away from people and causes many to not have ever even heard the Word of God.
- *2 Corinthians 4:4*
3. Tragically and sadly, countless believe that they have plenty of time left to take God up on His offer of eternal life and therefore they don't want to hear about it.
- *Acts 24:24-26* (Felix talking with Paul)

III. THERE ARE SAD RESULTS IN REFUSING TO HEAR GOD'S WORD (*Proverbs 1:24-28*)

1. When those people who refused to hear God's Word find themselves standing before God in judgment, they will have no chance to change their minds.
- *Proverbs 1:28*
2. Those who refused to hear God's Word during their lifetime will "reap what they have sown."
- *Proverbs 1:30-31; Galatians 6:7-8*
3. Christians who refuse to listen to God's Word will live fruitless, empty and powerless lives.

IV. WHAT HAPPENS WHEN ONE DOES HEAR AND OBEY GOD'S WORD? (*John 5:24*)

1. Those who hear God's Word and do what He says, will first of all be delivered from judgment.
- *Romans 8:1*
2. Another thing that those who hear God's Word and obey it will receive is eternal life with God in a place He has prepared for those who are obedient, called Heaven.
3. Those who hear God's Word and obey it will live lives of peace, of joy, of power, successful in living Christian lives pleasing to God.

CONCLUSION:

1. God's Word is for everybody and God wants everybody to do what He says.
2. Satan works very hard to keep everybody from ever hearing God's Word and obeying it.
3. Our human nature is such that we automatically tend to not be interested in God or what He has to say for we think we are quite able to live our lives by ourselves.
4. Whenever one does hear God's Word, rejects it, refuses to obey it and dies without ever obeying God's Word will stand before God in judgment for his/her life.
5. Whenever a person does hear God's Word and does what God' says, then he/she is saved, brought into God's family and will not stand in the same judgment as those who refused to hear and obey.
6. Those who hear and obey God's Word are indwelt by God's very own presence, the Holy Spirit and upon their physical death will be ushered immediately into Heaven, the place God has prepared for those who hear and obey His Word.
7. So, have you heard the Word of God? Have you done what God's Word told you to do?