

Obeying the Gospel Involves Hearing God's Word  
(Romans 10:13-17)

Introduction:

1. Last Sunday morning we studied passages that relate to "obeying the Gospel."
  - a. We showed from 2 Thessalonians 1:7-10 why obeying the Gospel is essential.
  - b. We showed from the Scriptures what is involved in obeying the Gospel.
  - c. We showed from Acts how a number of people obeyed the Gospel.
2. In this lesson we are taking a more detailed look at how "obeying the Gospel involves hearing God's Word."
3. This point is made very clearly in Romans 10:13-17.
  - a. Before a person can call upon the name of the Lord to be saved, he must believe in the Lord.
  - b. Before he can believe in the Lord, he must hear [be taught] about the Lord.
  - c. Also, faith is developed as a result of hearing God's Word.
4. Since hearing God's Word is involved in our salvation, let us examine some additional passages.

Discussion:

- I. IN HIS PARABLE OF THE SOWER, JESUS SHOWED THAT THERE ARE BASICALLY FOUR WAYS OF HEARING GOD'S WORD
  - A. In the parable (Luke 8:5-8), Jesus showed how a farmer sowed his seed on 4 types of soil, including:
    1. wayside soil (vs.5)
    2. rocky soil (vs.6)
    3. thorn infested soil (vs.7)
    4. good soil (vs.8).
  - B. As Jesus explained His parable (Luke 8:11-15), He showed that these 4 types of soil represent 4 kinds of hearers, including:
    1. wayside hearers (vs.12)
    2. rocky hearers (vs.13)
    3. thorn infested hearers (vs.14)
    4. good hearers (vs.15).
  - C. Please note that only the good soil produced fruit.
  - D. Because God's Word may be heard improperly, Jesus issued a warning in Luke 8:18 -- *"Take heed therefore how ye hear."*
- II. HOW TO HEAR GOD'S WORD PROPERLY
  - A. God's Word must be heard with understanding.
    1. On one occasion Jesus said to a multitude, *"Hear, and understand"* (Matthew 15:10).
    2. One who lacks understanding is like the wayside soil (Matthew 13:19).
    3. God's Word can be understood when it is read (Ephesians 3:4; Acts 8:30-31).
    4. Hearing with understanding requires having the right attitude and a desire to understand.
  - B. God's Word must be heard with eagerness but also with discernment (Acts 17:11).
  - C. God's Word must be heard with a meek [humble] spirit (James 1:21).
  - D. When God's Word is heard, the heart must not become hardened (Hebrews 3:7-8, 15; 4:7).
  - E. When God's Word is heard, it must be obeyed (James 1:22-25; Luke 6:46-49).

Conclusion:

1. The Bible clearly teaches that "obeying the Gospel involves hearing God's Word."
2. The Bible also teaches:
  - a. how God's Word is heard properly
  - b. why God's Word must be heard properly.
3. Let us strive to be the kind of hearer that Jesus described in Luke 8:15.