"Hear the Word of God, and Keep It"

(Luke 11:27-28)
5/7/06



Introduction: All of us want to be blessed by God. To be showered with His favor, joy, and spiritual fortune is the height of blessedness.

Where is God's blessing to be found?

- **The blessing of God falls upon those who <u>Hear and Keep His Wo</u>**



I. To be Blessed, we must be conscientious <u>HEARERS</u> of God's Wo (v.28a)

II. To be Blessed, we must be conscientious <u>KEEPERS</u> of God's Word (v.28b)



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Introduction: All of us want to be blessed by God. To be showered with His favor, joy, and spiritual fortune is the height of blessedness.

Context: After Christ had cast a Demon out of a man, He was wrongly accused of doing this miracle by the power of Satan (“Beelzebub, the chief of the devils”) (Luke 11:14-15)

This in fact is the sin of blasphemy against the Holy Spirit, because it was not Satan, but God’s spirit who cast the Devil out of that man.

A certain woman in the crowd, perhaps impressed by Christ’s message and thinking she was defending Christ shouts out a pronouncement of honor upon Mary. In her mind, blessing the mother, was to bless the son.

What we have in verse 27, are the seeds of “Maryolotry” (the honor and veneration of Mary)

While Mary does serve as a model of a Godly woman (an example many young women would do well to emulate, just as you would appreciate the godly characteristics in any hero of Scripture), Mary should never be worshipped as the “queen of Heaven” or adored as a goddess or as “the Mother of God” (as if to insinuate that she was responsible for Christ’s existence).

The Unbiblical exaltation of Mary in Roman Catholicism:

- The beginning of the exaltation of Mary, and the first use of the term "Mother of God" by the
- Council of Ephesus (431 A.D.) and reaffirmed by Pope Pius XI in 1931.
- Mary was proclaimed the "Mother of the Church" by Pope Paul VI in 1965.
- Mary is attributed with an immaculate conception, eternal virginity, and bodily assumption to Heaven; and is prayed to, worshipped, and adored.

"Then one said unto him, Behold, thy mother and thy brethren stand without, desiring to speak with thee. But he answered and said unto him that told him, Who is my mother? and who are my brethren? And he stretched forth his hand toward his disciples, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren!" (Matthew 12:47-50)

If you want to obey Mary’s only command in Scripture, obey what she says in *John 2:5: His mother saith unto the servants, Whatsoever he (Jesus) saith unto you, do it.*

Where is God’s blessing to be found?

- **The blessing of God falls upon those who <u>Hear and Keep His Word</u>**

  Note: Implied in Christ's statement is the fact that God's Word is available.

  We do have God's Word!

I. To be Blessed, we must be conscientious <u>HEARERS</u> of God's Word (v.28a)

Matthew 13:16
But blessed *are* your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear.

Not everyone is a hearer.

To hear, God must open your heart and "ears"

- *Matthew 11:15 He that hath <u>ears</u> <u>to</u> <u>hear</u>, let him hear.*
- *Matthew 13:9 Who hath <u>ears</u> <u>to</u> <u>hear</u>, let him hear.*
- *Matthew 13:43 Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath <u>ears</u> <u>to</u> <u>hear</u>, let him hear.*

- *Revelation 3:22 He that hath an ear, let him <u>hear</u> <u>what</u> <u>the</u> <u>Spirit</u> saith unto the churches.*

Don't be lazy in your hearing.
Engage your mind; Think; Take notes.

Hearing is vital to knowing God's Truth and having Saving Faith:
Romans 10:17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

In Romans 10:13-15, Just as believing is a prerequisite to calling, hearing is a prerequisite to believing.

No one can believe God's Word until they hear God's Word (cp. v. 17). [NOTE: Hearing God's Word was especially vital to the early church because not everyone had the availability of a complete Bible like we have today. The Gospel passed on by word of mouth.]

One can hear without believing (Heb. 4:2), but one cannot believe without hearing (or coming in contact with the Gospel).

The world listens to many voices, many messages, many bits of information daily, yet the most vital, necessary, important truth to be heard is that of the Gospel.

Ephes. 1:13 - "In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the Word of truth, the Gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise."

Opportunities to hear:

- Hearing God's Word when it is preached and taught in Church
- Hearing God's Word in your family devotional time
- Hearing God's Word via CD, DVD, or MP3 format

Hearing God's Word depends on the condition of the Heart:

"The Sower, Seed, & Soil"
Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

The Sower = A messenger of God
The Seed = The Word of God
The Soil = The heart of man

*** Examine the condition of your heart!**

Which type of soil characterizes your heart?

1. **HARD - Hearted (v. 4, 19)**
   ***This soil characterizes the rebellious man**
   (one who does not want to hear it at all).

2. **FAINT - Hearted (v. 5-6, 20-21)**
   ***This soil characterizes the non-committed man**
   (one who is emotionally interested but not committed).

3. **HALF - Hearted (v. 7, 22)**
   ***This soil characterizes the easily distracted man**
   (one who is preoccupied, other things are more important).

4 . **WHOLE - Hearted (v. 8, 23)**
   ***This soil characterizes the tender man**
   (one who has a sincere and good heart - Luke 8:15).

II. To be Blessed, we must be conscientious KEEPERS of God's Word

(v.28b)

The word translated “keep” is the greek word φυλασσω phulasso *foo-las’-so*

AV-keep 23, observe 2, beware 2, keep (one’s) self 1, save 1, beware 1; 30

1) to guard
  1a) to watch, keep watch
  1b) to guard or watch, have an eye upon: lest he escape
  1c) to guard a person (or thing) that he may remain safe
    1c1) lest he suffer violence, be despoiled, etc. to protect
    1c2) to protect one from a person or thing
    1c3) to keep from being snatched away, preserve safe and unimpaired
    1c4) to guard from being lost or perishing
    1c5) to guard one’s self from a thing
  1d) to guard i.e. care for, take care not to violate
    1d1) to observe
  2) to observe for one’s self
    to guard for one’s self (i.e. for one’s safety’s sake) so as not to violate, i.e. to keep, observe (the precepts of the Mosaic law)

Believers “keep” God’s Word in two senses:

We “keep” it in our Hearts by meditation and memorization of it.

We “keep” it so as to not violate it, but to observe it in obedience

The Lord Jesus Christ said:
Matthew 7:24 Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:
Matthew 7:26 And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand

***Your obedience reveals the genuineness of your profession.**

The indisputable <u>evidence</u> of whether someone is saved or not is whether or not they <u>obey</u> the Bible.

While believers are identified as those who "obey the gospel," unbelievers are called "sons of disobedience" (Eph. 5:5-6). Peter clearly taught that one's profession of faith is confirmed by his obedience to God's Word (II Pet. 1:10-11 - *"Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."*)

Also the doom of unbelievers is confirmed by their lifestyle of disobedience to God's Word (I Cor. 6:9-10 - *"Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.")*

False Professions of Faith	
Paul's Warning	**John's Warning**
Titus 1:15-16	**I John 2:3-5**
"Unto the pure all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled. They profess that they know God; but in works they deny Him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate."	*"And hereby we do know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He that saith, I know Him, and keepeth not His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoso keepeth His word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in Him."*

Those whose lives are unselfish manifest by their works for Christ and their giving to his cause that they are saved. As Paul said they are "laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life" (I Tim. 6:19)

See James 1: 22 - f

James 1:22 But be ye <u>doers of the word</u>, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

"Doer" - present tense = continual action. (a habit of life).
A key word in <u>Deut.</u> : <u>DO</u> Obey the Law!

"To whomsoever much is given, much shall be required"

It's <u>easier</u> to know what is right than to do what is right.

To learn and not to <u>do</u> is not to learn. Unless a message is acted upon, it is never learned.

Illus. - Spiritual obesity. Fat and lazy Christians (who know everything and do nothing).

"Arm-chair Quarterbacks - have all the answers but never play the game.

Ex. - The failure in Christian schools today is that the kids have no outlet to live what they have learned.

Knowledge puffs up (proud attitude) Love builds up (proper action).

V. 22 "Deceiving" = to misjudge, miscalculate. <u>To miss the point</u>.

You miss the whole point of God's word if you know and don't do. This is the height of foolishness.

Deceived because he thought he really <u>benefitted</u>. Illus. Wise man (a doer) and foolish man (one who does not do Christ's sayings). Mt. 7:24 - 29.

The gospel should have changed your life! We learn truth to live it! Not admire it, worship it, etc.

Illus. of a plow that was donated and sent to Africa. A primitive tribe did not know its purpose, so they set it up on a pedestal and worshipped it. They perverted it from its original design and purpose.

THE FOOLISHNESS OF THE "HEARER ONLY"

James 1:23 - "Hearer" = an attender at a lecture (ex. Acts 17; Paul at Mars Hill - Greeks wanted only to hear new things).

Applic. : Going to church is not to see and hear a performance. It is to equip you to serve. You are the performers!

"A man beholding" = Gk. word for male in contrast to female. Women are more sensitive by nature. See flaws more easily. (spend more time in front of the mirror)

The Bible is like a mirror. It reflects defects, needs, areas that need change.

A hearer just likes only his ears tickled. II Tim. 4:3

V. 23, 24 - One who knows the Word but does not obey it is like:
I. a man who is lost while holding a map in his hand
2. a man who knows what is wrong with his health but does nothing about it.

Why are some people content to hear the Word and not do it?

1. They are self-deceived (v. 22). Illus. of intellectuals who lack common sense (not practical). They are deceived into thinking that knowing equals righteousness.

This is not true! Ex. The devils believe (know about God) and tremble (Ja. 2:19).

It's your actions that will one day be judged (these are undeniable).

2. They are careless.

--They take too quick a look (v. 24)
--They look without any intention of changing

Or he may:
--look with someone else in mind
--look with good intentions but never get around to doing them.

THE FAITHFULNESS OF THE "DOER" (James 1:25 - 27)

1. He is conscientious (v. 25)

   a. He is a serious reader.

      "Looketh into" = to bend over and look intently. To stoop down to see exactly. To examine it minutely. (ex. Bereans).

      "Looketh" - the word was used in secular Greek when referring to those who were bent over looking out their windows at someone else's party.

      Ex. Jn. 20:5,11 - Disciples bent over and looked intently into the empty tomb.

   b. He is a steady reader.

      "Continueth" = remain, stay

   c. He is a submissive reader.

      "Doer" - He puts it into practice.

      The way to prevent forgetfulness is by practicing what you know. We remember very little of what we read, a little more of what we hear, a little more of what we see . . . most of what we practice.

   Blessing is only in doing!

   (the reward comes only to the doer)

      Ex. of learning to ride a bike, drive a car, play trumpet, play a sport, etc. -- You can read all the books you want; you don't gain the blessing of learning how until you do it!

Conclusion:

l) Do you have devotions or devotion?

2) Are you playing Christianity? Is it a game?

PRACTICAL TIPS:

l. Take notes in church
2. Keep notes at home (ex. post them)
3. Take notes during devotions

l. Listen with "ears to hear" and a "mind to obey"
2. Listen to see how it applies to you (don't compare self with others)
3. Examine self daily.
   Take the time -- think --
   "examine yourselves to see whether ye be in the faith"

1. Plan - schedule obedience to what you know
2. Be determined to practice one truth that God teaches or reminds you of each day.

Challenge:

If you would commit yourself to Hearing God's Word for at least 15 minutes a day, I'll personally buy you a MP3 disk with the entire N.T. on it.

Sign up today!