

## “TAKE HEED HOW YOU HEAR”: HOW TO HEAR A SERMON (pt. 3)

### I. REVIEW:

A. A Functional Definition of Preaching: *The official proclamation of the Word of God as it focuses on Christ in His person, offices, and work, with the goal of forming disciples of Christ the King by regeneration and sanctification.*

B. From Last Week:

1. Four Types of Sermons: 1) Consec. Expository. 2) Textual. 3) Topical 4) Occasional.
2. Three Main Ingredients: 1) Man. 2) Text(s) 3) Congregation.
3. Three Stages of Preparation:
  - Turf work: The preacher begins to *understand* the material.
  - Meditation: The material becomes *part* of the preacher.
  - Organization: The minister decides *how to preach* the material.NOTE: The preaching is what actually happens in the pulpit...

### II. HOW TO PROFIT FROM PREACHING:

A. Preparation, cf. II Chron. 12:14, 19:3, II Chron. 30:19. \*Acts 2:42, “spoudazo”  
e.g. Imagine you have a mtg. w. the President at the White House the next day, \*Heb. 12:22ff. .

1. *Physical*: Sabbath preparation from, e.g. 6:00 p.m. on. \*Rest! (Worship is work!)
2. *Spiritual*: Clear all your accounts, \*Matt. 5:23f. \*Prayer, \*Lk. 11:13. For what?  
e.g.. Ps. 119:18, “*Open my eyes, that I might behold, etc.*” \*Eph. 6:19  
NOTE: Preaching is w. goal of forming disciples of Christ the King by regeneration & sanctification, cf. “*Sanctify them by your truth, your word is truth.*”

B. At the Worship Service:

1. *Before*: Be careful for the devil’s intrusions, cf. I P. 2:1f. Get there on time. Go through the elements of the worship service.  
NOTE: You are prep. yourself to shift gears from this world to next, i.e. from rev. to fwd!
2. *During*:
  - a. Get a felt-sense that you are truly in pres. of God, e.g. *Salut., call, praise, conf. of faith*
  - b. Genuinely minister to one another, confess your sins, and receive Christ’s pardon.
  - c. Hear the word of God read as if it were coming directly from Christ, cf. I Tim. 4:13.
  - d. During the preaching, pay careful attention to , (Take notes?):
    - 1) The Minister’s **Purpose** (Usually in intro.): *Why is he preaching this?*
    - 2) The **Points** of the Sermon: *What is the order or progress of the message?*  
NOTE: Look for: *Exposition. Illustration. Application. Is it biblical?*
    - 3) The Minister’s **Plea** (Esp. in conclusion): *What does he want me to do? How does he want me to think, feel, or act differently?*

NOTE: Bot. line: Believe what was said, cf. \*Heb. 4:2. \*I Th. 2:13; \*II Th. 2:10.

C. Afterward, cf. \*Lk. 8:12-15

1. Make profitable discussion of everything at church and in the worship service as you go home and/or at the table, cf. Acts 17:11, cf. Deut. 6:6f.  
NOTE: Beware of ruining this all important opportunity to grow.
2. Ask yourselves individually, as couples, as a family: *How ought we to be different as a result of this message?*, i.e. preaching for transformation. cf. \*James 1:18-25. Work at it...
3. Q: *But what about all the things that we forget?* A: You may forget what you eat, but it will still nourish you!

**CONCLUSION:** *Westminster Larger Catechism, #160*

*Q. What is required of those that hear the word preached?*

A. It is required of those that hear the word preached, that they attend upon it with diligence, preparation, and prayer; examine what they hear by the scriptures; receive the truth with faith, love, meekness, and readiness of mind, as the word of God; meditate, and confer of it; hide it in their hearts, and bring forth the fruit of it in their lives.

