

How Well Do You Listen to God?

Have you ever ignored a warning because it wasn't what you wanted to hear? Today, we will begin with a story about a king who only wanted good news, even when the truth could have saved his life. In 1 Kings 22, Ahab invited Jehoshaphat to battle with him. Before going into battle, Jehoshaphat urges Ahab to consult the Lord. Ahab called 400 apostate prophets, who all spoke as one - saying the Lord would give them victory. Jehoshaphat was skeptical. Don't you have any prophets of the Lord? Enter Micaiah, who says what Ahab doesn't want to hear and is jailed. When we reject His truth, he will allow us to chase the lies we prefer straight to our ruin.

I. A Look at 2 Timothy

- A. 2 Timothy 4:2-3: **Preach** the word; be ready in season and out of season; correct, rebuke, and encourage with great patience and teaching. For the time will come when people will not tolerate **sound doctrine**, but according to their own desires, will multiply teachers for themselves because they have **an itch** to hear what they want to hear.
- B. Note 2 things from verse three:
 - 1. People will refuse to listen to sound doctrine.
 - 2. People will choose to hear what they want to hear.
- C. Sound doctrine is the teaching of Jesus and His apostles and inspired teachers.
 - 1. It encompasses biblical morality.
 - a) 1 Timothy 4:12: Don't let anyone despise your youth, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, and in **purity**.
 - 2. It also encompasses matters of doctrine.
 - a) Romans 6:17: a "**pattern of teaching**."
 - 3. Sound doctrine is not open to personal interpretation.
- D. 2 Timothy 4:4: They will turn away from hearing the truth and will turn aside to **myths**.

II. How Well Do We Listen to God?

- A. The scripture tells us what we need to hear. It is the word of God.
 - 1. 1 Thessalonians 2:3-6: so we speak, not to please people, but rather **God**, who examines our hearts.
 - 2. 1 Thessalonians 2:11-13: you welcomed it not as a human message, but as it truly is, **the word of God**, which also works effectively in you who believe.
- B. How is our hearing? How pliable is our heart?
- C. 1 Chronicles 28:9: know the God of your father, and serve him wholeheartedly and with a **willing mind**,

III. Applying Sound Doctrine to Daily Life

- A. We must apply sound doctrine to the way we think & live. We must put our religion into practice with practical daily service:
 - 1. Titus 2:1: But you are to proclaim things consistent with sound teaching.
 - 2. Titus 2:7: Make yourself an example of good works with integrity and dignity in your teaching.
 - 3. Titus 2:8: Your message is to be sound beyond reproach....
 - 4. Titus 2:10: demonstrating utter faithfulness, so that they may **adorn** the teaching of God our Savior in everything.
- B. God has had much to say about service, prayer, holiness, purity, and submission.
- C. Belief without action is a divorce God never signed up for.

IV. As We Close

- A. Are you willing to listen to God...even when it stings?
- B. Is your heart pliable enough to obey Him, no matter what?
- C. Are you committed to reflecting His character more consistently?