

February 11, 2024

Don't Be A Dull Listener

by Ken Weliever

Yesterday morning on the way to the Florida College Lectures, I witnessed a car on fire at the intersection of Fowler Avenue and Morris Bridge Rd.

Flames were shooting upward and the firemen were quickly responding to extinguish the blaze. You could see the sense of urgency in their actions. Without the right response the situation could have become much worse.

When I arrived at the 8:00 AM Lecture to hear Joe Greer deliver his message entitled "You Have Become Dull of Hearing," he immediately began talking about his days as a volunteer fire fighter.

Joe talked about the importance of attending the Monday night training classes. Of listening and learning about the proper procedures in a variety of emergency situations.

Joe said, "There was no room for someone to be content in being rookie forever." They were expected to develop skills and grow in their ability to do the job.

In the same way, Joe applied the text of Hebrews 5:11-6:8 to those Christians who had failed to learn, grow, and mature as disciples of Christ. They were rookies when they should have been veterans. The writer said they had become "dull of hearing."

The NIV renders this, "slow to learn." The CEV reads, "slow to understand." And maybe the CSB hits the heart of the issue by translating the word, "lazy in hearing."

Strongs says the Greek word (nothros) is derived from a word that means "sluggish." Vine says it means slow, sluggish, or indolent." Barclay says it means "slow-moving in mind, torpid in understanding, dull of hearing, witlessly forgetful." He adds, "It can be used of a person who has the imperceptive nature of a stone."

We've all heard of someone who said to be "dumb as a rock." However, they may not lack IQ, but it's because they've been lazy in learning. It may be "a lack of understanding" that Joe called "self-inflicted." One's lack of perception may be due to willful laziness and spiritual neglect.

Chris Epler noted in his lecture that this same word is also used in Hebrews 6:12 warning us not to become "sluggish," "slothful," or "lazy."

Joe pointed out that as Christians we are either "progressing or regressing." Warren Wiersbe called it a "backward journey by drifting from the Word." Then he offered this insight. "One of the first symptoms of spiritual regression, or backsliding, is a dullness toward the Bible. {Bible Class} is dull, the preaching

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When you visit our assemblies, you will be received friendly, kindly and courteously. We believe this to be the natural attitude of those who truly love God and mankind. Though you may at first be among strangers, we hope that you will come to know us well and count us as your friends.

We offer Bible studies as well as correspondence courses for those interested in learning more about what God expects of us.

Important Dates

Ladies' Class - Tuesday, February 13 at 10 a.m.

Gospel Meeting - San Marcos, February 23-25

Our Next Gospel Meeting is scheduled for March 24-27 with David Raif

If you know of upcoming events, please inform Darrell so they can be included here.

is dull, anything spiritual is dull. The problem is usually not with the {Bible Class} teacher or the {preacher}, but with the believer himself.”

The Hebrews’ laziness stunted their growth. They were spiritual babies, instead of full grown Christians. They were milk drinkers, instead of meat eaters. They needed to receive teaching instead of being teachers. They needed to return to first principles, when they should have been dealing with more advanced issues. They were immature instead of mature. They were imperceptive, instead of discerning.

The writer further warns regarding the seriousness of this situation if left unchecked in Hebrews 6:4-8. It is a bleak and comfortless circumstance. One in which they are in danger of falling away, of losing their salvation, and putting Christ to an open shame.

Joe was right when he wrote, “The consequences of spiritual immaturity are frightening.”

When we fail to be active listeners, receptive hearers, continual learners, committed to a lifetime of growth, we may easily fall prey to the Devil’s “fiery darts”(Eph. 6:16). The wicked one wants us to be eternally separated from God and dwell with him and his minions in a place the Bible describes as a “lake of fire” (Rev. 20:10).

Let’s be spiritual fire fighters. By listening, learning, discerning, and putting into practice our knowledge, we can avoid spiritual tragedy. And rescue others from eternal ruin.

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Prayer Requests

Jack Wilson is still struggling with pain and limited mobility.

Jerry Richardson’s lymphoma has returned and is suffering cognitive and balance issues.

Dinah Williams continues to have mobility issues.

Don Simmons is still struggling with his breathing; he is on oxygen at all times. **Alene** is having hip issues.

Debbie McMurray is isolating at home after her therapies and compromised immune system.

Terry Behrns is recovering at his sister’s home

Elaine Kersh is undergoing treatment for cancer.

Sylvia Stinnett broke her wrist and had surgery.

If you know of someone that needs to be on this list, please tell Darrell (email preferred) and provide updates so names stay on the list as long as needed.

“praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,”
(Ephesians 6:18 ESV)

The Oaks West church of Christ is a group of individual Christians who have been added to the Lord’s body through baptism (Acts 2:38, 47; Gal 3:26, 27), and have joined themselves together (Acts 2:42ff) in an effort to do the Lord’s will.

We are not a part of any larger organization - we do not follow any man-made creeds and we do not answer to anyone other than the Lord.

Our standard of faith and practice is the Word of God. We believe in the God of revelation (Eph 3:1-7; 2 Tim 3:16-17) and follow his instructions in an effort to have an ongoing relationship with him (1 John 4:7-11; 5:3).

Our times of study and worship are open to all, and our members are happy to meet with interested individuals or families for study.

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