

A DEVOTIONAL SERIES ON THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN ABOUT JESUS CHRIST

GIVE ME EARS TO HEAR YOUR WORD, O LORD

John 8:47 “Whoever is of God hears the words of God.”

What is the mark of a believer in Jesus Christ? Here in John 8:47, at least one “mark” of a Christian is given. Your relationship to God, your faith and trust in Him, your faith commitment to Him is manifested in your desire to hear His word. Martin Luther understood this when he explained what a Christian’s worship life indicated. Note Luther’s “what does this mean?” for the Third Commandment: (Remember the Sabbath Day by keeping it holy.) What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and His Word, but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it.” (The Small Catechism)

What does gladly hearing and learning God’s Word look like? The following Bible passages give an answer:

- “I love the house where you live, O Lord, the place where Your glory dwells.”– Psalm 26:8 A Christian does not go to church every week because they have too, but because they want to hear what God has to say to them.
- “Blessed . . . are those who hear the word of God and obey it.” – Luke 11:28 Through His word, God pours out His blessings upon you.
- “They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.” – Acts 2:42 This verse gives the basic characteristics, marks, indicators of what the body of Christ (all believers in Him) does.
- “Your word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.” – Psalm 119:105 Reading, hearing, studying and learning God’s word provides you with guidance for your life’s journey.

The only reason anyone would not want to hear God’s word or not have anything to do with it is that they do not belong to Him. (John 8:47) A Christian yearns to hear God’s word that proclaims to Him the unconditional love His heavenly Father has for Him in the person and saving work of His Son, Jesus Christ. His Gospel word is His power for your salvation.

Prayer: Let Your word, O Lord, dwell richly in my heart. Amen.

O God of light, Your Word, a lamp unfailing,
Shall pierce the darkness of our earth-bound way
And show Your grace, Your plan for us unveiling,
And guide our footsteps to the perfect day.

From days of old, through blind and willful ages,
Though we rebelled, You gently sought again
And spoke through saints, apostles, prophets, sages,
Who wrote with eager or reluctant pen.

Undimmed by time, Those words are still revealing
To sinful hearts Your justice and Your grace;
And questing spirits, longing for Your healing,
See Your compassion in the Savior's face.

To all the world Your summons You are sending,
Through all the earth to ev'ry land and race,
That myriad tongues, in one great anthem blending,
May praise and celebrate Your gift of grace.
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