

HOW TO LISTEN TO SERMONS

What Every AudioVerse Listener Ought to Hear

Presented By:
Alistair Huang



THE PURPOSE OF SERMONS

- 2 Timothy 4:2 and Romans 10:17
 1. For correction, encouragement, education.
 2. For developing faith.
 3. Not for entertainment.
 4. It is, in a sense, the Word being made flesh once more.



1. ASK FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT

- 1 Corinthians 2:12-14
- John 16:13



2. BE WILLING TO OBEY

- John 7:17
- Acts 17:18-21,32



3. LISTEN FOR YOURSELF

- Matthew 7:3-5
- Detect the beam in your own eye.



4. THINK CRITICALLY, STUDY WELL

- 2 Timothy 2:15
- Isaiah 8:20
- Acts 17:11
- 1 Thessalonians 5:19-21
- Don't just listen with your ears, but with what's between them.
- Identify both good and bad.



4. THINK CRITICALLY, STUDY WELL

“Study it out!” – 2 Peter 1:20; 3:16.

- Write it down.
- Is that really what it means? (Hermeneutics)
 - Historical and literary contexts.
 - Presuppositions, premises, and arguments.
- So what? / Then what?
 - Conclusions and ramifications.



5. CURE THE ITCHY EARS

- 2 Timothy 4:3

For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will **accumulate for themselves** teachers to **suit their own passions**. (2 Tim 4:3 ESV)

Don't just cherry-pick!



6. AVOID THE ENTERTAINMENT MINDSET

- Ezekiel 33:30-32
 1. Preachers are not performers.
 2. Popularity does not determine value of the message.
 3. Cling to the message, not the messenger.
 4. The celebrity culture is dangerous.



6. AVOID THE ENTERTAINMENT MINDSET

I am pained beyond measure to see the little discernment existing among our people who have had so great light. **They listen to a sermon that stirs their emotions,** and the language of their hearts is, "Evermore give us the ministry of this man; he moves our hearts, he makes us feel." **They forget God, and praise and exalt the man, to his injury and the injury of their own souls.** When will those who claim to believe the truth cease from man whose breath is in his nostrils? When will they trust in God, make Him just what He is--all and in all?

[*The Voice in Speech and Song*, 290.3]



7. BE A TEACHER, NOT A CONSUMER

- Hebrews 5:12-14
- Sermons are intended to help us grow to become skillful in the Word—to make us teachers.
- Let's not remain as babies who require spoon-feeding.
- Someday, we will be on our own.



HOW TO LISTEN TO SERMONS

1. Ask for the Holy Spirit.
2. Be willing to obey.
3. Listen for yourself.
4. Think critically, study well.
5. Cure the itchy ears.
6. Avoid the entertainment mindset.
7. Be a teacher, not a consumer.



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