Hearing the Gospel
1 Peter 1:22-25

God gave us ears to hear, but are we __________? Today we’re going to explore the importance of listening to God. We want everyone to _______ and to _______ the Lord. We know that the true way to know the Lord is through a thorough _______ of His Holy Word, the Bible. We can’t count on __________ or the ___________ of men. We want to hear God __________ for Himself, so we go to the Scriptures.

“‘Behold, days are coming,’ declares the Lord GOD, ‘When I will send a famine on the land, Not a famine for bread or a thirst for water, But rather for hearing the words of the L ORD. People will stagger from sea to sea, And from the north even to the east; They will go to and fro to seek the word of the LORD, But they will not find it’” (Amos 8:11-12). For many today, there is a __________ for the Word of God. I fear what happened to Israel in the eighth century before Christ is happening __________.

While the Bible is still the number one ______________ of all time, and while 82 percent of Americans revere the Bible as sacred literature, they simply don’t read it and don’t know what it actually teaches. In a recent report by the American Bible Society, 79 percent of the people believe that they are knowledgeable about the Bible, but only 45 percent could __________ the four gospel accounts of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

Sadly, many people know very little about God’s ___________ on sin, the soul, salvation, or the judgment. If we want to live with God eternally in __________ with joy and peace, then we must hear the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Our reading today comes from 1 Peter 1: 22- 25.

Proverbs 1:5 says, “A wise man will hear and increase in __________, And a man of understanding will acquire wise counsel.” From our earliest days in school, our teachers encouraged us to listen and to follow __________. Listening, really listening, may be one of the _______ tasks of life. We can hear words, but have we __________ to listen and to receive the message that we heard? Have we sought God and treasured up His Words in our __________? The Bible everywhere emphasizes the ______________ of listening.

Read what the psalmist sang in Psalm 119:10-16. Some say they don’t like ________; I hear that a lot, but the psalmist __________ in the ordinances or rules that God gave. In fact, he set his _______ to delight in them, to store them up, to meditate upon them, and to consider
them significant, so he would not forget them or wander away from them or sin against God. I hope that you _______ the Lord with all your heart and that you love God’s Word like that.

Every parent who loves the Lord wants to see his children ___________ God’s ways and wisdom. **Read what Solomon said in Proverbs 2:1-5.** Solomon knew how important, how utterly important knowing God and His Word was to his children. Do you know? Have you made the Word of God a ____________ in your home, mothers and fathers?

The Lord Jesus more than once said, “He who has _______ to hear, let him hear” as He did in Matthew 13:9. In the book of Revelation, chapters 2 and 3, we can read seven times: “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.” God wants and demands to be __________. God spoke from ___________ on the Mount of Transfiguration about Jesus. He said, “This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased. Listen to Him” (Matthew 17:5).

Matthew, Mark, and Luke record one of the Lord’s parables. Some call it the parable of the ___________, and others the parable of the _______. It really describes how ________ respond to the teaching of Jesus. **Read Mark’s account of this parable in Mark 4:14–20.**

In this parable, the _______ is the Word of God, the gospel. The first group is like the soil beside the ________. Matthew 13:19 explains, “When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and he doesn’t understand it, the evil one comes and ___________ away what’s been sown in his heart. And this is the one on whom the seed was sown beside the ________.” Just as the seed never quite breaks into the soil, so the Word never quite breaks the ____________ heart. Some never take the word seriously, never believe, and they ________ their opportunity to become Christians.

**Read John 1:11-13.** Satan came and _______ the Word from them, so they never heard what was necessary for them to know the___________ and so be saved. Many today never have the Word planted in their hearts, never truly hear the gospel, and never know the truth about Jesus.

The Jesus that they ________ they know and the Jesus that is ____________ in Scripture are really for them two different people. Why? Because Satan is a deceiver. He doesn’t want people to have the truth in their hearts, and so he ______________ a mythical Jesus for the real one. This is a Jesus that never ______________ them, that’s Satan’s Jesus; that never ____________ anybody, that’s Satan’s Jesus. Oh, He’s very attractive, but He’s ___________. He’s not the Jesus of the New Testament.

Then, there’s the rocky soil. These folks hear the message and they believe quickly; but when ______________ comes, they fall away because they lack the deep spiritual roots that they need. Their shallow, superficial _________ isn’t strong enough to sustain them. They only believe for a while. Trials or persecution cause their faith and their commitment to Christ to
just ________ ___. They heard the good news of salvation, yes; but they didn’t ___________ it up in their hearts, so they leave their faith behind.

Third, Jesus tells of the ___________ soil. They hear the word, but they let other things ________ the Word of God out of their hearts. They have a little ________ in their hearts for God, and a little for His Word, but because of the cares of the world, because of their delight in riches, because of the pleasures of this life which become their focus, the Word of God gets ___________ ___.

Read Colossians 3:1-4. That’s where our hearts must be, where we must remain if we wish to ________ with Christ in glory. The psalmist said, “With all my heart I have ________ You; do not let me _______ from Your commandments” (Psalm 119:10). We need that way of ___________: otherwise we too might have hearts filled with distractions that take us away from God.

The fourth soil is made up of “good and honest ____________.” Oh, they hear and they ____________ the Word. Rather than _________ with God, they accept it and they hold fast to it. In the end they bear ________ with patience, some thirtyfold, some sixtyfold, and some a hundredfold. A good and honest heart is willing to be in subjection to God because God ________ Him and he’s willing to be honest about himself. Many hearts _______ to themselves about their need for God or about their need to change and repent. Many hearts would rather argue about what is and is not ______ than really to listen to what God actually says. An honest and good heart will listen to God and make then the needed _________.

God is able to produce fruit in a good and honest heart because His Word is firmly ________ there. If you’re not willing to listen to God, God cannot ________ you; but if you’re willing to listen, God can do great things in your life! Many want to claim the ___________ of God in the Word but they’re unwilling to let God’s Word be the moral and spiritual ___________ in their lives. But you can’t have the promises of God if you’re unwilling to ________ the rest of what God says. God is God, and we are His ___________. We don’t ________ more than He does. We’re not ________ than He is. We must listen to Him rather than think that we can tell Him what we ought to ________.

Listening to God means that we regard His written Word as the __________ authority. Instead of going with our “gut feelings” or listening to other ________ that are in this world, we’re going to listen to Him in the Word. Listening means that we quit trying to ________ what the Bible says, quit trying to remake God in our own image, and quit thinking God is subject to our _________. God is God! He was God before He _________ the world, and He’ll be God after this world comes to an end. He doesn’t change, and His Word doesn’t change. Psalm 119:89 says, “Forever, (forever ) O L ORD, Your word is _________ in heaven.” What was
true when Jesus spoke it in the first century is settled in heaven and has not __________. The Lord Jesus said in John 10:35 that the Scripture cannot be __________. That is, you can’t change it; you can’t edit it, or dispose of it. It stands ____________.

The book of Galatians ___________ us that there is one, unchangeable gospel. The gospel of Christ is not a cafeteria, where people can ___________ what they want and ___________ the rest. No, the Lord determines what the gospel is, and our task is to hear and to be ___________.

Read Galatians 1:6-9. We must ___________ the one, true gospel. We must not imagine any other gospel will do.

The one, true gospel ___________ to Jesus Christ, crucified, buried, and raised from the dead. Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-4.

Why is all this important? It’s important because we can be ____________, and frankly many people have been. If we believe a gospel that has been ___________ with, we’ll be following a lie. We must ___________ and ___________ the one, true gospel. The Lord Jesus said, “Take ________ what you listen to” (Mark 4:24). A false gospel will only ___________ those who follow it. The devil likes to counterfeit the gospel and ___________ people. He likes to make people think they are ___________ even when they’re following a lie. We must be careful not to fall into his ________ and lose our souls. We’re going to spend this month looking at what God desires from us to obey that one, true gospel. So, please study with us each week this month.

Read what the Lord Jesus said in Matthew 7:24-27. The Lord Jesus ___________ a wise man as one who hears and does what He has said. He doesn’t ________ to the gospel, or doesn’t ________ ________ from it. He doesn’t ___________ what God has said, or try to rewrite the gospel. He simply ________ and ________ the words he heard. On the other hand, the foolish man hears, but he ________ ________ do what he heard. He does something else. He builds a house yes, but not a house built on the ________ foundation of the Words of Jesus. So, when the time of testing comes, the one who listens and obeys ____________, but the one who ignores what he hears and does what he wants to do, that person is going to be ____________.

Hear the Lord and obey Him; become a Christian today! Put your ________ in Christ and ________ Him, ________ of your sins, and be ________ into Jesus Christ and into His death. When you’re baptized, the Lord will wash away your ________ (Acts 22:16) and He’ll raise you up to walk in ________ of life (Romans 6:4). Today is the best day for you to hear the Lord and respond to His message.