

NEVER BECOME DULL IN YOUR HEARING

Note to the speaker:

Help audience to see these vital needs: When studying or attending meetings, pay attention to how you listen. Listen attentively; get the sense of Jehovah's instruction. Your actions will prove whether you are listening when Jehovah speaks

LET HIM THAT HAS EARS, LISTEN (5 min.)

Entire Christian way of life, service, worship, and salvation depends upon willingness to listen to and obey God's Word; "faith follows the thing heard" (Ro 10:17)

A good heart exercises faith in the things heard and causes the mouth to make 'public declaration for salvation' (Ro 10:10)

Millions hear the written and spoken word, but only a few really listen, or get the sense of it

Paul cautions against becoming dull in hearing (Heb 5:11)

Be swift about hearing God's Word; 'accept the implanting of the word, which is able to save your souls' (Jas 1:19, 21)

HEARERS MUST BECOME DOERS OF THE WORD (12 min.)

Only those doing the 'will of God will enter into kingdom' (Mt 7:21-23)

Many doing powerful works in name of Jesus, but because not being done in obedience to Word of God, it makes such ones "workers of lawlessness" (*w88* 10/1 27; *w90* 10/1 24)

Continuous feeding on God's Word necessary in order to learn the will of God (Mt 4:4)

Jehovah's organization provides weekly meetings, group and personal study of his Word, and shepherds, teachers, and instructors in order thoroughly to instruct and equip all of God's people "for every good work" (2Ti 3:14-17; Mt 24:45-47)

[Cite verifiable examples of those who have heard the Word and demonstrated faith in it by having a full share in the ministry]

Easy to fall into trap of becoming simply 'hearers of word' (Jas 1:22)

Even dedicated servants of Jehovah get caught in this trap by following pattern of evil world and failing to hear or apply good counsel of the Word (Eph 5:28-33; 1Pe 3:1-3, 7)

Urgent now to oppose and resist blinding influence of Satan and wicked world (Jas 4:7)

[Cite a verifiable example of one who overcame opposition in order to be an obedient hearer of the Word]

Hearers of Word will become peace lovers and beat their swords into plowshares (Isa 2:2-5)

[Cite a verifiable example that shows how once-warlike or belligerent people were transformed by the power of the truth to become peaceable]

HEARERS PRIVILEGED TO BRING MESSAGE OF LIFE TO OTHERS (10 min.)

Jesus Christ greatest teacher; said he came into world to bear witness to the truth (Joh 18:37)

Made known his commission to proclaim and teach the Word to others (Lu 4:18-21)

Went throughout Judea healing and teaching; he also made disciples of appreciative hearers (Mt 9:35-38)

Jesus emphasized need of all these disciples to copy his example and commissioned them to 'go and preach the good news of the kingdom' (Mt 10:1-10)

Gave specific command to make many more disciples in all parts of the earth and baptize them (Mt 28:19, 20)

Prophesied that message would reach entire earth (Ac 1:8; *it-2* 744)

Early Christians carried message of good news throughout inhabited earth (Ac 24:5; 28:22)

Tremendous worldwide preaching activity by Jehovah's Witnesses especially since 1919

[Review some high points of the charts in *Revelation Climax* book, pages 64-65. Include figures from latest *Yearbook* report]

Jehovah's Witnesses have distributed billions of pieces of Bible literature (*re* 154 ¶18)

This represents a marvelous response on the part of those who have become 'not only hearers but doers of the word' (Jas 1:22)

[Cite a verifiable example of one who is determined to continue having a full share in the harvest work]

APPRECIATIVE HEARERS OF GOD'S WORD WILL BE BLESSED (3 min.)

All mankind headed either to life or destruction (Mt 7:13, 14)

Many were once part of Satan's world and enemies of God, but the truth has changed the lives of those who obey what they hear from God (Eph 4:17-19)

Obedience to God's Word will commend the hearer to Jehovah's approval for life everlasting

(Adhere closely to the outlined material, and observe the indicated timing of each section. Not all cited texts need to be read)