

Can You Hear Me Now?

by Mike Glenn

Can you hear me now? Can you hear me now?

This familiar adage has become synonymous in today's culture with good cell phone service. Although this clever ad is an amusing play on a frustrating reality, the meaning is clear. Words are useless unless one can hear and understand what is being said.

Jesus taught that it is possible to "hear" without really hearing (Matthew 13:13-14). That would be a sad state of being since hearing is an essential step in being saved. We are saved by grace through faith and obedience (Ephesians 2:8; Hebrews 5:9). But, faith comes by hearing the word of God (Romans 10:13-17). We cannot call on the name of Jesus if we have not believed in Him. We cannot believe in Him unless we hear Him. Hearing is so important to our salvation that God shows us failing to hear is to fail to be saved. When the Jews refused to "hear" the word, God said that they judge themselves unworthy of eternal life (Acts 13:46). When He wanted to describe the road to apostasy He said that men and women would have "itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth" (2 Timothy 4:3-4).

Hearing is a process. Jesus said that we should both take heed to what we hear (Mark 4:24) and to how we hear (Luke 8:18). Biblical "hearing" is not just being aware of the meaning of sounds that cross our ears. Rather, it means being open-minded to the truth (even when it is not what we have believed in the past) and examining the things we hear to be sure they are truth (Acts 17:11). "Hearing" can sometimes mean "reading" the scripture to determine the truth. Hearing is just the first step to our salvation. We pray that you will take the time to find out the rest of God's plan of salvation. Start your "hearing" by carefully examining each passage mentioned here.

Hear: Romans 10:17 -- Believe: John 3:16 -- Repent: Luke 13:3 -- Confess: Romans 10:10
Be Baptized: Acts 2:38 -- Live Faithful: 1 Corinthians 15:58