

What Kind of Ears?

2 Timothy 4:1-4

Introduction:

A. The charge to Timothy (1,2)

1. Made in the presence of (literally) “the God and Christ, Jesus” who is coming to judge the living and the dead – this is a reference to the d_____ of Christ.
2. Made in light of Jesus’s a_____ a second time when He finalizes His kingdom.
3. Applies to preachers and teachers
 - a. Preach the w_____ (scripture)
 - b. Always be r_____ to reprove (warn), to rebuke (point out wrong), to exhort (encourage)
 - c. Have great p_____ when instructing (allow God to use His word to change hearts).

B. The words in verses 3,4 apply to those who h_____ the word.

1. Will you hear the word with a sense of urgency?
2. What kind of ears might you have, should you have, and will you have?

T_____ ears – elective hearing (3)

A. What ears tickle or itch, there is a need for them to be r_____.

1. Some listeners were looking for certain t_____ to rub their tickled ears.
2. Some listeners were accumulating teachers that taught only what they wanted to h_____.

B. Application

1. The criterion for f_____ a pastor often comes down to whether he will preach what “the board” wants to hear.
2. Many leave a church because they do not a_____ with what the pastor might be preaching.
3. Every church needs a pastor who is committed to preaching the w_____, not preaching what people want to hear.

T_____ ears – selective hearing (4)

A. This refers to those who listen to teachers only when they want to.

1. They l_____ to what they want to hear.
2. They i_____ what they don’t want to hear.
3. This causes some to turn away from the truth and believe m_____

B. Application – the Bible is to be the final authority in what we believe and practice. But many ignore the Bible and choose to hold on to a belief or a practice.

1. Two common myths that some Christians insist on believing.
 - a. Satan is a spiritual being who k_____ our thoughts.
 - 1) The Bible does not teach this anywhere.
 - 2) The Bible teaches that only G_____ has this ability (Ps 44:21; Lk 16:15; Rev 2:23)
 - b. God created us because He was l_____ .
 - 1) The Bible does not teach this anywhere.
 - 2) The Bible teaches that God is in n_____ of nothing (Acts 17:24,25; Rev 4:11).
2. Two common practices that some Christians hold on to although they know the Bible teaches that they should not practice them.
 - a. Spending m_____ frivolously.
 - 1) The Bible teaches that God o_____ all that we have (Ps 24:1).
 - 2) The Bible teaches that God has given us s_____ over His things (Lk 16:11)
 - b. Having certain a_____.
 - 1) Christians tend to r_____ addictions – the no-no’s at the top (drugs, alcohol); the so-so’s in the middle (tobacco); and the ho-ho’s (LOL) at the bottom (caffeine, video games, facebook).
 - 2) Bible teaches that we are not to be m_____ by anything (1 Cor 6:12).

T_____ ears – collective hearing (Rev 2:7)

- A. This is the kind of person who listens to all of God’s word and a_____ them.
 1. _____ times Jesus said, *if anyone has ears to hear, let them hear.*
 2. In Rev 2:7, Jesus adds – *let them hear what the S_____ is saying to the churches.* (remember all scripture is inspired, which means that God’s Spirit is behind it).
- B. Application
 1. The Holy Spirit i_____ with the written word to teach us, convict us, guide us, improve us, etc.
 2. Conform you life to God’s word.

Conclusion – a challenge

1. Think of ONE thing that you know you need to change in your life.
2. Write down on a card or sticky note verses related to that (pastor can help with that).
3. Place it somewhere that you look often (mirror, laptop, cellphone).
4. Pray or sing, *Change me, O God.*