

## Take Heed How You Hear

Hearing is a very important matter. We may not appreciate the ability to hear, but let something happen that impairs our hearing and we will know how important our ability to hear really was.

It is a fact that some people have hearing problems. Some from birth have never heard the loving words from their parents or never heard the birds sing in the springtime. Some to health concerns or injury have become hard of hearing. It seems to me that we will have a generation of people who will have hearing problems if they continue to ride in cars with music (I am using this term in the broadest of terms) so loud that the windows in the house rattle as the drive down the street. It is a personal request from me, but I would like to choose the music I listen to in my car and not to have that determined by the folks in the car next to me at the traffic light. There are those who think they hear just fine. Several years ago hurricane Opal roared through our neighborhood. We were living in Ringgold, GA at that time. Opal blew in sometime in the early morning hours, and blew a tree down on our house. How much noise does a tree falling on a house make? I don't know. Connie and my daughter Kym and her two girls can tell you, I didn't hear it. Perhaps I am like the gentleman brother Tom Holland wrote about in his book, You Will Be Old Some Day—Maybe.

Perhaps the worst kind of hearing impairment is those who choose not to hear. Stephen, a preacher of the gospel in the first century encountered this type of hearer, *"Then they cried out with a loud voice, and stopped their ears, and ran upon him with one accord"* (Acts 7:57). Jesus spoke of the those who did not want to understand the teaching of Jesus *"For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them"* (Matthew 13:15).

We must not only take heed how we hear, but we must take heed to what we hear, and we must take heed to who we hear. *"...This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him"* (Matthew 17:5).

Bill Dedmon – 10/15/2006

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