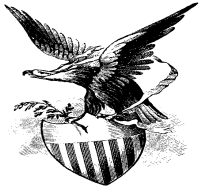


Light Brings Salt

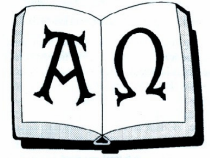
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Iron Range Bible Church

Dedicated to the Systematic Exposition of the Word of God



Hindrances to Utilizing God's Word by Pastor John Griffith

Today we are going to consider some of the barriers that are in the way and will continually be there attempting to hinder our hearing and application of the word of God.

If we know what they are then we can do something about them as they crop up.

First is the Satanic barrier

This is a hindrance that is always going to be there, it never goes away. This is a potential always when the Word of God is being taught.

We must always be on guard for his operatives and the system of counterfeits he has designed to get you as a believer side tracked from focusing on the issues as presented by the Word.

In that respect Satan and his crew have it all over some believers today, since they never miss Bible class.

Look at Mk 4:3-4; we'll see that Satan's crew is always there when the Word is communicated to impact the hearers. The explanation is given in vs:14-15. We need to ask ourselves just how are they able to impact anyone, believer or unbeliever from hearing the Word?

Most obvious is physical separation from the Word. A good example where Paul thought that this was happening is in the Thessalonian church. They had received the word and therefore Satan

and his crew were anxious to see that they were separated from their source of doctrine. In 1 Thes. 2:14-19 we find that they were separated them from their source of teaching Paul.

If he can't affect a separation from the source of truth then one of the next best things is to create distractions. In Mk 4:19 we find 3 basic distractions that he uses in order to sidetrack the believer from focusing on the word in his life.

If we know these areas, then we can counter the attack when it comes. First is the worries of the world, getting us wrapped up in temporal concerns of the day. The second attack is in the area of the deceitfulness of riches, the old money illusion. Does making money ever get in the way of our intake of doctrine? Third area is the desires for other things. Satan and his crew like to stimulate our wanters so that we get so busy satisfying it that effectively the Word of God is blocked out of our life.

Need to remember that this Satanic barrier will never go away as long as we are in this life. It is a part of the Spiritual battle (Eph 6) that we must face daily and deal with if we are not to become a casualty and fall by the wayside spiritually.

Have you ever found yourself sitting there and drifting off thinking about some temporal concern? And as a consequence you missed a few minutes

of the teaching of the word? Or maybe you found your self day dreaming about what you want so badly and you drifted off no longer concentrating on the teaching of God's Word.

The carnality barrier

There is a related barrier, the carnality barrier, which is a failure to have the sin nature isolated and the God/H-s in rulership of the real you. This was the problem with much of the Corinthian Church's problems and it severely limited their spiritual growth and application. The word taught was chocked off as well as the ministry of the Holy Spirit. (1 Cor 3:1-3)

There's another barrier which I'll call the attitude barrier. Don't bug me with the truth!! This was one of the problems of the Galatians. Usually those that get into this turn on the one who is the communicator of the truth and blame them for all there. Gal 4:16

Another thing we need to consider as we focus on the importance of studying the Word of God is the aspect of spiritual preparation that is necessary.

1. Need to set your priority on the Word. Ps 138:2b says that God has magnified His word above His name. I would take it then that the Word should have a pretty high priority in the life of the Believer.

Sometime when you have a few minutes sit down and think about this: the Word of God verses every thing else in life, and ask your self these questions:

1. The WOG verses other things in terms of proportion. Here we need to ask ourselves the how much questions!! How much newspaper, TV, sports; whatever. Then you need to ask yourself some important questions; this brings in the priorities aspect.

Better yet would be the question; Just what is it that preempts the WOG in your life? What is it that has higher priorities? What is it that can come up and you quickly put the WOG on the back burner? We need to set the priority on doctrine! Col 3:1-2

2. Need to make the necessary adjustments in your life. First, having made the most important adjustment and that is to believe in Christ for salvation, which is a once for all adjustment.

Secondly we need to adjust to the way God does things. We need to learn to think and do things His way, and his way is by Grace!!

Third we Need to adjust to the Word it self as we think God's thoughts after Him! There are some important aspects of Scripture that need to be kept in mind. It is totally sufficient to meet our every need 2 Tim 3:16-17.

We are blessed as believers with every spiritual blessing in Christ Eph 1:3. Everything we have grows out of you position in Christ, our union with Him.

Fourth we need to adjust to the attitude that the Word demands and that is by faith. We must believe it and put it into practice in our life. Without believing it and living it there is no benefit from it!! Then we would be like those in the diaper churches attempting to live off the platitudes of Christianity instead of truth.

Fifth we must adjust to the one who is the instrument God is using to teach the Word. Eph 4:11-12 The P/T is given to the church for the equipping of the saints for the work of the ministry. The result being a congregation of growing and advancing believers who are prepared to have impact in their lives for Christ as they live and deal with the tough issues of life utilizing the Word.