

## Listening - Continued

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Some members of churches of Christ will listen until you mention “pattern” (2 Timothy 1:13), or until some sin is pointed out (1 John 3:4). Some will listen until the “church of Christ” is mentioned (Rom. 16:16), until “instrumental music” is condemned (Ephesians 5:19), or until godly living is stressed (Titus 2:11).

Paul, however, was not the first to experience prejudicial listening. Micai-ah’s audience (1 Kings 22:8), Jeremiah’s audience (Jeremiah 36:23-24), Jesus’ audience (Matthew 13:14-15), and Ste-phen’s audience (Acts 7:57) all listened to a point and then stopped.

There are a number of reasons why someone might listen up to a point and then stop. It could be their tradition or custom keeps them from listening. It could be false teaching, er-ror, limited knowledge, ignorance, pride, or hardness of heart.

What is need today is for all of us to have open ears and eyes to the truth (Psalm 119:18). Let’s all be atten-tive (Nehemiah 8:3), have readiness of mind (Acts :10:33; 17:11), be glad to hear (Mark 12:37), and swift to hear (James 1:19) all that God has for us in the scriptures. - *Chris Reeves*

## - Scripture of the Week -

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“...that you may know the mystery of God,  
even Christ, in whom are ALL the treasures of  
wisdom and knowledge hidden ”  
- *Colossians 2:2-3* -

ALL I need to have a right relationship  
with God is Christ and his wise words.  
ALL, not some or most, is found in Christ!  
I will make Christ my ALL this week.

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Radio Program  
Sundays: 8:30 - 9:00 am  
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Assembly Times  
Sunday: 9:30 am, 10:30 am, 5 pm  
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## THE WARFIELD BULLETIN

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do  
not war according to the flesh, for the  
weapons of our warfare are not of the  
flesh, but divinely powerful for the  
destruction of fortresses.  
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

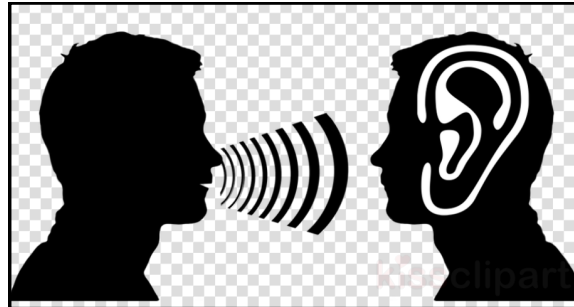
## Listening Up to a Point

After the Apostle Paul was unjustly attacked in the temple by the Jews at Jerusalem in Acts 21, he was being taken into the Roman fortress by some Roman soldiers. On the steps of the fortress, Paul asked if he could say a few words in defense of what he had been doing before coming to Jerusalem. He was allowed to speak and he began to recount his past life (Acts 22:1-21). He spoke of:

- His life in Judaism before Jesus.
- His persecution toward Jesus and his church.
- His vision of the resurrected Jesus.
- His command by Jesus to go to Damascus.
- His message from Jesus through Ananias.
- His conversion to Jesus by baptism.
- His commission by Jesus to preach to the Gentiles.

When Paul got to the part of his life where Jesus wanted him to preach to the Gentiles, something very inter-

esting happened. The Jewish audience heard the word “Gentiles” and they immediately stopped listening to anything else Paul would have to say. They listened to Paul up to the word “Gentiles” and then they stopped listening.



Here is how Luke recorded what happened:

*“And they gave him audience unto this word; and they lifted up their voice, and said, Away with such a fellow from the earth: for it is not fit that he should live” (Acts 22:22).*

This Jewish audience in Jerusalem did not want to listen to facts. They did not want to listen to the truth. They did not want to listen to something that would cause them to make a change. No, they stopped listening when they heard just one word - “Gentiles”. They had so much hatred of the Gentiles and prejudiced toward them that they could not accept the fact that God wanted them to be saved too

and that they would be saved by Jesus and not by Judaism.

Unfortunately, the same thing happens today. When the Bible class teacher or the preacher is giving a message from God’s word, the audience will listen up to a point and then they will stop listening. Or, when you are having a one-on-one discussion with someone about Bible matters. They will listen up to a point, but when you say something truthful that goes against their beliefs, they stop listening.

Friends, we must accept the fact that prejudicial hearing is still strong today. For example, an unbeliever will listen until you mention the word “God” (Genesis 1:1), or the “Bible” (1 Timothy 3:16). A follower of a world religion will listen until you mention “Jesus” (Acts 4:12). A devout denominationalist will listen until you mention “baptism” (Acts 2:38), or “works” (James 2:26). A liberal theologian will listen until you mention “miracles” (Acts 2:22). An uncommitted religious person will listen until you mention “obedience” (Hebrews 5:9).

Prejudicial hearing can even be found among brethren today.

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