



How to Listen to a Bad Sermon Part 2

Lesson 14

It is a fact of life—there is such a thing as bad sermons...

The question is: How do you listen to them, or do you?

Those who truly know how to “hupakouw”, are able to listen to God speak through good sermons and through _____!

According to 2 Timothy 3:15-17 a Good Sermon Is...

- 1) Bible-**REVEALING**
- 2) Soul-**SEARCHING**
- 3) Life-**CHANGING**

What Makes for Bad Sermons and How Should We Listen to Them?

1. _____ **Reasons for Bad Sermons:** *The sermon leaves a lot to be desired in style and presentation. Acts 20:7-12*

How to Listen to a Sermon that is Bad for Practical Reasons:

- 1) **Remember who you are expecting to hear from:** God and not just a man.
- 2) **Don't let your personality or preferences** or those of the speaker get in the way of hearing from God.
- 3) **Release unrealistic expectations and unfair comparisons** to other preachers and teachers.
- 4) **Pray** and then pray some more for your pastors as they preach and teach you God's Word! *Romans 15:30-31; Ephesians 6:18-20*
- 5) **Fight the frustration** of being caught in a bad sermon for practical reasons!
- 6) **Be an encourager** whenever you see progress in the preaching or teaching.

2. _____ **Reasons for Bad Sermons:** *The sermon lacking in biblical content, insight, or substance. Acts 18:24-28*

Some Textual Reasons for a Bad Sermon:

- 1) _____ the text what is not there or the surrounding context.
- 2) _____ of the text what is not there or the surrounding context.
- 3) _____ the text to ride off on a personal “hobby horse.”
- 4) _____ of the text or a particular doctrine

How to Listen to a Sermon that is Bad for Textual Reasons:

- 1) Avoid developing a _____ spirit like the spiritual know it-alls in the Bible. *Luke 11:53-54*

- 2) Be a Berean and do your own _____ of the passage as you listen. *Acts 17:11*
- 3) Ask questions, seek clarification, and be open to _____ with your pastors and teachers.

Aquila & Priscilla took the right approach to a sermon that is “bad” for textual sermons...

- 1) They took him aside _____ not publically.
- 2) They took him aside _____ not impersonally.
- 3) They took him aside _____ not negatively.
- 4) They took him aside _____ not proudly.

3. _____ Reasons for Bad Sermons: *The sermon is contrary to what is clearly taught in the Bible. 1 John 4:1-6*

Some Heretical Reasons for a Bad Sermon:

- 1) _____ an error in a central fundamental of the faith as revealed in the Bible. *1John 4:1-6; 2John 9-11*
- 2) _____ to correct their teaching (or living) when it is shown to be wrong from the Bible. *Romans 16:17-18; 2Thessalonians 3:6, 14; Titus 3:8-11*
- 3) _____ others to follow their message and/or manner of life. *1John 4:4-6; 2Peter 2:1-3; Matthew 7:15-20; 2Tim 3:1-9*

How to Listen to a Sermon that is Bad for Heretical Reasons:

- 1) Don't _____ to them. *Romans 16:17*
- 2) Don't _____ with them. *2John 10-11*
- 3) Don't _____ with them. *2Timothy 2:24-26; Jude 22-23*
- 4) Do _____ scriptural guidelines for confronting false teaching and false teachers. *Matthew 18:15-20; Titus 1:9; 2Tim 2:24-26; Jude 22-23*

Don't Let a Bad Sermon Keep You from Hearing God Speak to Your Heart!

Seek to Hupakouw Even When You Hear an Occasional Bad Sermon!

- **Recommit yourself to the seven spiritual skills required to hupakouw!** *Keep the card in your Bible. Pray through it Saturday night or Sunday morning to prepare your heart.*
- **Pray for the preachers and teachers of our church to preach good sermons and teach good lessons!** *Pray that they will “get on base” every time they speak—even an occasional home run! Pray for sermons and lesson that are Bible-revealing, soul-searching, and life-changing!*
- **Learn to discern between sermons that are bad for practical, textual, and heretical reasons!** *Then adjust your hearing accordingly!*