

WHAT IT MEANS TO RECEIVE THE WORD

Acts 2:41; Jhn 1:1-14

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Many people are confused today concerning the meaning of the phrase we are going to talk about today
- B. The meaning as it is used in our text is somewhat different from the feelings of the majority of people today
- C. In John 1 we learn that the Word was made flesh, hence, if we talk about receiving the Word we are talking about receiving Christ, for you can't receive one without the other
- D. The words "Gladly Received" are actually one word in the Greek, and it means to accept without reservation. In Thayer's Greek Lexicon he uses the word believe in describing what is involved.
- E. It will be our task in this lesson to determine what is meant or what is involved in receiving the word

DISCUSSION:

I. RECEIVING THE WORD NECESSITATES MAN GIVING UP ERROR

- A. Before truth can be received, error must be exposed
Note Jer 1:10
- B. These people on Pentecost had to give up their former ideas - for they were the ones that were guilty of killing Jesus
- C. Word is truth Jhn 17:17 and one can't have truth and error at the same time
- D. Paul gave up his previous beliefs when he received Christ (the Word) Phil 3:4-7
- E. Some people who think they want to receive the Word actually do not
 1. The cost is more than they are willing to pay
Matt 19:16-22
 2. Must be willing to give up everything if necessary

II. IT MEANS TO RECEIVE ALL OF THE WORD

- A. Receiving without acting is not really receiving Jas 2:20
- B. If you receive the passive part (faith) but reject the active part (works) you haven't really received the Word at all
- C. Notice the attitude displayed in Isa 30:8-10

III. IN RECEIVING THE WORD MAN SAVES HIMSELF

- A. This is evident from Peter's exhortation Acts 2:40,41; Phil 2:12
- B. In rejecting the Word man condemns himself Acts 13:46 Jhn 12:48
- C. Save our souls by receiving the Word Jas 1:21
- D. The wayside hearer did not receive the word
Matt 13:3-9; 18-23

IV. THE WORD RECEIVERS ON PENTECOST Acts 2:36-41

- A. Action on their part
 1. Heard the word that was preached
 2. Believed the word that was preached
 3. Repented of their sins
 4. Baptized for remission of sins
- B. Upon completion of these conditions they were added to the Lord's church

CONCLUSION:

- A. For one to be eternally saved he must "receive the word" in the same way these people on Pentecost received it
- B. Receiving involves more than just hearing words, it involves understanding and acting upon that which you understand
Matt 13:20-23
- C. The word receivers on Pentecost continued steadfastly in the teaching of the apostles, in fellowship and breaking of bread Acts 2:42
- D. The Corinthians had received the Gospel and were standing in it 1Cor 15:1,2 and Paul admonished them to be steadfast 1Cor 15:58
- E. Have you received the word? If not, why not?
- F. If you have received the word, are you being steadfast?