



Itchy Ears

Worksheet Follows Message/Lesson

2 Timothy 4:3

*For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, **having itching ears...***

*Mark 8:18 .. and having ears, **hear ye not?**.....*

John 6:60

*Many therefore of his disciples, when they had heard this, said, This is an hard saying; **who can hear it?***

Introduction:

How many of you guys or gals have been the victim of a wet willy?

The wet willy is the choice weapon of 9 year olds (usually boys), in which the perpetrator stinks a finger, usually the pinky, into his mouth and then directly into the victim's ear.

As a kid I remember that was grounds for a fight. It is a disgusting gesture/prank to pull on someone. No one likes someone else's spit in the ear.

Francine recalls that her dad would instantly swing if anyone messed with his ears. Seems that when her dad was a little boy and they would start to town, then his mother would wet her finger and begin to clean out her son's ears, which undoubtedly were typically filled with dirt and so forth. He hated it! And I don't blame him for that.

Sometimes we get ears full of dirt, too.

If you are out in the arena in Southwest Oklahoma where we grew up or just outside anywhere for that matter, the wind was always blowing and it was always, not occasionally, but always filled with dirt. There would be a ring around your mouth and your eyes watered a lot! The ears filled up with dirt and a bath daily was just about a requirement to be able to see or hear in the summer time. We didn't get much rain and occasionally we saw it rain mud onto the windshield of the car.

It was very important to keep your ears cleaned out and seems like they were always itching.

Message:

The Itchy Ear Condition:

2 Timothy 4:3

*For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, **having itching ears...***

Have you ever heard the expression: That “tickles” the ears? That simply means that you are listening to words that agree with your ideas or desires.

The Bible God’s Word says that there **WILL** be a time when people in general will not listen to what the Bible is actually saying, but will paraphrase and water it down and take it out of context so much that it only pleases what they would LIKE it to say. And that this will be SO MUCH SO that they will have clubs and organizations and “churches” that are full of leaders, teachers, and “friends” that make them feel good about themselves and their actions disregarding what the Bible says about what is right and sound doctrine.

Some will call me a pessimist and many will reject what I am saying to you; but nevertheless, it is the truth that the Bible tells us **THIS WILL HAPPEN**. In fact, it happens today! And this phenomenon will only increase as time goes on and we get closer to the return of Jesus. Therefore, the older you get, the more you will encounter this! It will get harder and harder to find a church or group of “Christians” that stick to “sound doctrine.” Be prepared.

What is “sound doctrine?” That means that you stick with what the Bible says that Jesus says: that the only way to Heaven is through the Blood of Jesus Christ. He was the Perfect Lamb; the only One that could pay for our sins. And it is through your trusting Him as Savior that you are saved/born-again. That if you follow His principles that your life will be happier; and best of all you will be right in your walk with Him.

There are many “feel-good” groups of people and churches out there today. I have watched them increase dramatically in my lifetime. They say with their mouths that they believe Jesus and His way is the only way to Heaven, but then they do not walk with Him daily. It is confusing to people that have not accepted Jesus as Savior to see people that claim to be born-again/saved Christians behaving like they are not.

Yes, I honestly believe we are already there: in the era of the **Itching Ears Condition**.

So what can we do about it? BE VERY CAREFUL WHAT and WHO YOU LISTEN TO! If what a leader or teacher or even a preacher says does not line up with the Word of God.....dismiss what you heard immediately.

In the school, the textbooks and other materials will tell you that the earth “evolved” into existence. Not what the Bible says! Which are you going to believe?

On the television and other media you are going to hear that it is OK to live together instead of getting married: Not what the Bible says! Which are you going to believe?

Your “friends” are going to tell you that it is OK to drink “once in awhile”. The Bible God’s Word says, ***Proverbs 23:31 Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, when it moveth itself aright.*** Which are you going to believe?

Your peers are going to tell you that “everyone else is doing it”. But whatever it is that they are “all” doing, check it out with the Bible, the Word of God. **Then you must decide for yourself: Which are you going to believe?**

You will have to make “hard” choices sometimes from the perspective of your flesh; but these are EASY choices from the perspective of God’s Word.

What are your Ears Tuned to:

John 6:60

*Many therefore of his disciples, when they had heard this, said, This is an hard saying; **who can hear it?***

John Chapter 6 lays some very heavy information on the disciples and the followers of Jesus. The people had a hard time receiving, believing and then understanding what He had just told them.

He had just told them that He came to earth to DIE and that He was the PAYMENT for sin for all that would accept Him as such. He had just told them that His body would need to be “eaten” and they would have to “drink” His blood in order to go to Heaven. He was trying to explain to them that Salvation came at the expense of God’s Only Begotten Son dying in their place for their sins; that He would TAKE MY PLACE and TAKE MY PUNISHMENT for sin. He was giving them a PICTURE of what salvation is all about.

Jesus gave His life in His earthly body, taking on the payment for sin although He had NO SIN and that HIS BLOOD was from Himself, the perfect Lamb of God and His Blood would be poured out as sacrifice for our sins. This is hard to understand for some people. It was hard for these folks especially.

Up until this point in Jesus teachings, the people had pretty much been hearing what they wanted to hear from what He was saying.

It’s like when you hear someone tell you that you are going to get a new horse, but you “tune out” the part that says “...once we get the bills paid down on the repairs on the truck, then we can afford to start thinking about getting you a new horse...”. You only hear the part you want to hear, the part that says “get....a new horse.”

The Remedy; Clean out your ears:

Romans 10:14

How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?

Get on the same frequency as the Lord! If your radio is not tuned in quite right, then you only get static!

Get on the same frequency as the Lord so that you can first of all, be saved. Then get on the same frequency so that you can grow in grace. That is, read your Bible, pray. If you really want to get close to God, spend more time with Him than you do with the internet or with your “friends”. Then perhaps you might hear Him speak to your heart and maybe you are one that He is asking to tell others about Himself.

Acts 15:7b

.....hear the word of the gospel, and believe.

Maybe you haven’t gotten to the first step yet to clean out your itchy ears. Maybe you need to first of all **“hear the word of the gospel and believe...”**

Present Salvation.

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What you hear is not always the truth so check it out with the Word of God.

**God created everything or we “evolved” into existence.
What is the truth? _____**

Where do we find this in the Bible?

True or False: You can go to Heaven several different ways. _____

What does the Bible Say?
