

# **“THEY GAVE AUDIENCE UNTO THIS WORD”**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

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- A. TEXT: *“And they gave him audience unto this word; (Gentiles, v. 21) 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.*
- B. SETTING:
1. Paul returned from 3<sup>rd</sup> journey.
  2. Wanted to go into the Temple.
  3. Was very careful not to upset or insult the Jews.
  4. They found an occasion to attack him any way.
  5. Would have killed him had not the chief captain intervened.
  6. Paul spoke to the captain in Greek; and he listened.
  7. Given the opportunity he began to speak to the Jews in the Hebrew language. And they listened **only to a point!**
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## **Paul’s Stairway Address**

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- A. First spoke of himself and his life...
1. A Jew
  2. A Pharisee
  3. Highest education...at feet of Gamaliel.
- B. ZEALOUS FOR GOD.
1. Persecuted Christians.
  2. Both men and women.
- C. THE ACCOUNT OF HIS CONVERSION.
1. On the road to Damascus.
  2. Met Jesus.
  3. Then Ananias
  4. “And now why tarriest thou? Arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins”. v. 16.
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## **STOPPED LISTENING**

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- v. 21... *“I will send you forth far hence unto the **Gentiles**”*
- A. *“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.” v. 22.*
1. Could not accept that God would send salvation unto the Gentiles.
  2. Brief history of the attitude of the Jew toward the Gentile world.

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### B. Thus they reached a point where they would not listen...

1. They became violent.
2. *“For this people’s heart is waxed gross, And their ears are dull of hearing, And their eyes they have closed; Lest haply they should perceive with their eyes, And hear with their ears, And understand with their heart, And should turn again, And I should heal them.”*(Matt. 13:15).

### C. Where Do People Stop Listening Today?

1. II Cor. 4:2-3. **When the god of this world blinds them.**
2. John 6: When the message gets hard for them to understand.

## **DEMANDS OUR TREASURE**

### B. Mark 10:17-22 .

1. In this case it was his wealth.
2. And certainly the Bible points out some of the problems that come with riches...Or the desire for riches.
3. Envy...Greed....Covet... “pierce themselves through with many sorrows”

### C. CONVICTION:

1. We must put Christ first in our lives.
2. Matt. 6:33; idea often taught in New Testament.

## **AUTHORITY**

### A. There has been an obvious erosion for authority in our world, about things in general, and religion in particular.

1. We see it every where from the home .. School, society.
2. Maybe it had its beginning with the “flower children”.
3. Whatever... the result is that people want to do what they please and what please them.

### B. This is the most popular idea in religion today.

1. Do as you please.
2. No real requirements. No real doctrine. No real convictions.

### C. These Quit Listening When An Appeal Is Made To A Command of God!

1. They don’t even like the word “Command”.
2. The Bible is but a loosely bound book of suggestions.
3. No respect for God’s word.

### D. They will worship only as long as they are free to do as they please.

**Some things in specific**

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### **BAPTISM**

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- A. I don't know of anything that the Bible teaches that people resist more than this.
1. I certainly don't understand why.
  2. It doesn't hurt....doesn't take long....nothing bad about the act itself.
- B. THE BIBLE RECORD:
1. Acts 2; Acts 3; Acts 8; Acts 9; Acts 10; Etc.
  2. Yet people start crying... “water salvation” etc.
  3. “They give audience unto this word” BAPTISM. STOP LISTENING!
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### **OTHER AREAS OF CONFLICT**

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- A. SIN: Don't call sin..Sin. Use some pleasing term.
1. Many people listen until specific sin is mentioned.
  2. Especially if it is one of theirs....
  3. Try to hid behind....”don't you judge...”
- B. Make your own list...
1. Drinking...social drinking.
  2. Homosexual.
  3. Faithful
  4. Etc.
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### **CONCLUSION**

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- A. Again John 6:
1. Jesus' Question
  2. “Would you also go away”. V. 67.
- B. May our answer always be with apostle Peter...
1. **“Lord to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of Eternal life”** v. 68.
  2. Tonight we will talk about “What the Word of God Does”.
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