



Jeff Sweeten

Thus Saith the Lord "I CAN'T HEAR YOU!"

By Jeff Sweeten

"I CAN'T HEAR YOU!" were the words bellowed from my Drill Instructor as he found yet another flaw in my performance. While on "Worm Island" (Navy Boot Camp, San Diego, California), I realized quickly that the purpose for the high volume, less-than-complementary comments, the gyrating trash cans that ricocheted between the bunks of sleeping sailors and the personal, nose-to-nose revelations of one's origins were intended to pound into every fresh recruit the essential skill of listening. Further, the force of the message carried with it this strange motivational tone. Pushups at midnight on the tarmac for not following orders quickly took the luster out of Navy recruiting posters.

God's revelation is no less loud and clear, without all the personal put-downs and bellicose belittling. In His divine way, He has given spirit-guided information that will direct us through life and into Heaven.

The key element in our experiencing eternal bliss has to do with [1] our hearing what He said (which is evidently a problem for some, cf. Matthew 13:14-15) and [2] obeying what we hear (which is evidently an even greater problem with many, cf. Matthew 7:13-14). Isaiah dealt with this ear, eye, and heart problem.

"And he said, Go, and tell this people, Hear ye indeed, but understand not; and see ye indeed, but perceive not. Make the heart of this people fat, and make their ears heavy, and shut their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and convert, and be healed" **ISAIAH 6:9-10**

Apparently, things hadn't improved by Jesus's day (Matthew 8:18) and the book of Acts ends with little resolved in this regard (Acts 28:26-27). Paul, "preaching the kingdom of God" while under house arrest in Rome (v. 31), summed up his condemnation of a rebellious audience with: "Well spake the Holy Ghost by Esaias the prophet unto our fathers..." (v. 25). They just wouldn't hear.

You would think with cell phones, e-mail, and instant messaging that people would have shown a little improvement over the last two thousand years. Not! In a world that boasts in its ability to communicate around the globe in seconds, deaf ears are still the leading cause of condemnation. I invite you to listen to Christ, as faith comes by hearing God's Word (Romans 10:17). Then, obey Christ (Matthew 16:24).

Believe and obey Him because, someday, you will both hear and see Him! And, then, when it everlastingly too late to respond of your own free will, you will bow (Romans 14:11).

"For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first." **1**

THESSALONIANS 4:16

"Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen."

REVELATION 1:7

Thus Saith the Lord
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Park Heights Church of Christ

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Hamilton
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Schedule of Services

SUNDAY

9:30 a.m. Bible Class
10:25 a.m. Morning Worship
1:30 p.m. Afternoon Worship

WEDNESDAY

7:00 p.m. Bible Study

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