

How to Get More Out of a Sermon

Every gospel preacher has been paid this compliment: “I sure got a lot out of your sermon this morning.” In contrast to this attitude, there are those who are failing to get the intended good from the sermon, evident by statement also. A valid question to every member of an audience is: **“Are you getting as much out of the sermon as you possibly can?”** No doubt there are many answers to this question. Regardless of our answer, all of us should want to get more out of each

sermon we hear. The average preacher gives much thought, study, and prayer to his sermon. In his delivery he does his best to communicate with the audience. While the preacher has studied hard to prepare his sermon, many in the audience have never given much thought or study on how to get more out of a sermon.

The listeners, as well as the speaker, need to be prepared if the sermon is to achieve its greatest potential upon delivery. The following suggestions are given to help the hearer get more out of a sermon.

First, come with the right attitude of mind. We must determine to get more from the sermon before we actually can. Our attitude must be that of the Psalmist and Proverb writer: **“The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple” (Psalm 119:130);** **“A wise man will hear, and will increase” (Proverbs 1:5).** Therefore, we must come with the idea of getting all we can out of the sermon. This will take concentration and effort on our part.

Second, bring your Bible and writing paper with you. When I was a boy I use to see everyone with their Bibles open as they listened to the sermon. This is no longer true. The Bible is needed in order to follow along with the preacher. It also helps us to see if **“those things**

be so” ([Acts 17:11](#)). The taking of notes during the sermon will help you remember as you review and study the lesson at home. I know of one lady who has a note file on almost every sermon she has heard. Taking notes prevents the mind from wandering.

Third, use the lesson during the remainder of the week for family devotions. What an excellent way to study. Notes can be compared and studied by the whole family for edification, etc. The family will become stronger as they discuss ways and means of applying the sermon to their lives.

Fourth, tell others about the sermon. People you come in contact with daily will be interested in hearing about some of the interesting points made by the preacher in his sermon. This encourages them to come and hear for themselves. It may surprise you how many people are still interested in what a preacher says.

Fifth, sit close enough to hear. Many are failing to get a lot out of the sermon because they cannot hear the preacher. To correct this sit closer to the preacher. If you have a hearing problem, many good hearing devices are available to aid you in better hearing. If it's the preacher's fault, tell him to speak louder.

Sixth, be prepared physically. A person who comes to worship tired and sleepy fails to get anything from the sermon. All of his efforts are given to staying awake. His greatest accomplishment may be just that. A good night's rest before Sunday will correct this problem. We need to be alert and at our best when we come to study God's word.

The preaching of a sermon is a two-way affair. For it to accomplish its purpose there must be preparation on both sides. The preacher must be prepared and the listeners must be prepared.

How much do you remember of the last sermon you heard? Probably not very much. Try these suggestions and see if they will help you. Jesus said, “[Take heed how you hear](#)” and also “[take heed what ye hear](#)” ([Luke 8:18](#); [Mark 4:24](#)).