

Waxed Gross

Acts 28:26-27

Introduction: The words of the Holy Spirit through the apostle Paul hold equally true today, even among the saints. God's Spirit reveals God's word now as it did then, yet men still refuse it. Not only do men reject the teachings of salvation but just as in the days of Isaiah as Paul here is quoting men refuse to hear any form of truth.

Based upon this passage there are distinct reasons given why men will and do refuse truth. Let us examine this morning/evening those elements Paul refers to which keep men from obeying God's word.

I. Heart Waxed Gross

- A. As we alluded to in the introduction to this sermon Isaiah was told originally in Isa 6:9-10 to go to the children of Israel and say these words we now study. These words are repeated throughout the Bible in reference to the refusal of the Jews to believe and obey the words of God.
 - 1. Jesus uses these words in the refusal of the Jews to believe in Christ.
 - 2. Jesus explains these words. (Jn 12:40)
 - 3. It should be noted that this was not a problem that was distinctly Jewish. (Eph 4:18)
- B. In verse 27 the heart is the first thing mentioned as a reason for man refusing God. The heart of course refers to the mind and the metaphor denotes the hardness to God's word.
 - 1. The heart is a necessary element in accepting God. (Rom 6:17; 10:9-10)
 - 2. Obedience can only be obtained when our heart is changed.
- C. The problem is that the hardness comes from God's word. When we read it or hear it and it isn't what we want to confront about ourselves we ignore it.
 - 1. It isn't that we can't understand it but that we in essence become "waxed gross."
 - 2. "Waxed gross" refers to the indifference (lack of interest or concern) for what God wants of us.

II. Ears Dull Of Hearing

- A. The reference to hearing is also metaphoric as is the reference to seeing. These along with the heart are closely related to each other.
 - 1. Hearing is not just listening but also acting upon what is heard. (Rom 10:17)
 - 2. In order for us to obey God we must first be willing to hear God.

- B. Trouble occurs when we stop listening. How many times do parents ask their children, “did you hear what I said?” Or what of the children when they say, “I didn’t hear you say that?” Or, “you didn’t say to do that?”
 - 1. Obviously, if we never listen to begin with we never have to admit to ourselves wrong doing.
 - 2. Those who are Christians are equally guilty of this. (II Tim 4:3-4)

III. Eyes Closed

- A. The mentioning of eyes in the Bible often times refers to blindness. Not literal blindness but of men blinding themselves to truth. (cp I Jn 2:11)
 - 1. It is a refusal to see truth. (cp Rom 11:25; Eph 4:18)
- B. The Christian is not immune to blindness. (II Pet 1:9)
 - 1. This is attributed or caused by the Christian not growing. (II Pet 1:5-8)

Conclusion: The words of Paul expressed then the severity of what the Jews he was speaking with were doing. They were refusing to hear the word of God. How often when we hear a sermon given or read a passage which points out our errors do we simply ignore it? All men may not hear God’s word; all men may not want to see God’s word; all men may not want to conform their hearts to God’s word, but to refuse God now will mean certain destruction for us later.

Heb 12:25 – “See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from him that speaketh from heaven:”