

Title: The Believer's Response To The Word Of God Part 1

Text: 1:19-21

Main Idea: God commands us to respond to His word with the right heart.

Note: That the word of God is the subject here is obvious as indicated by it's use in verses 18, 21, 22, 23, and 35. These verses are not talking about social graces in listening or controlling one's temper, as nice as those things are. Rather they are discussing our response to God's "word of truth" (v. 18).

Division Statements:

1. Hear the word intently (v. 19).

Note: "Swift to hear (ταχὺς εἰς τὸ ἀκοῦσαι), slow to speak" - How different are these words from the typical bored listener to the word of God! One might add a division statement "Hear the word with reverence" and bring out the import of "slow to speak" further, though I do not typically do this in teaching this text unless I'm addressing fellow teachers and preachers.

2. Hear the word with peace (vv. 19-20).

Note: "Slow to wrath," wrath against what, anger and resentment against what? The answer is "the implanted word" (v. 21). Note the conjunction "therefore" at the beginning of verse 21.

3. Hear the word in purity (v. 21a).

Note: "Therefore, lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive ... the implanted word, which is able to save your souls."

4. Hear the word submissively (v. 21b).

Note: "Receive with meekness [πραῦτης (prautes)] the implanted word." We have not only the attitude indicated in the previous verses, but here the spirit of humility giving birth to actual submission.

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