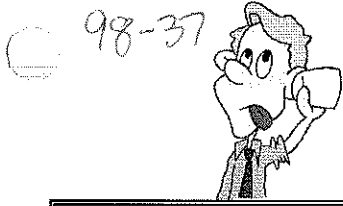


Text: 1 Thessalonians 2:13  
Topic: Biblical Teaching. Attitude.  
Series: Growing Up (part 2 of 4)

Pacific Coast Church  
November 14 & 15, 1998  
Pastor Mike



# Attitude Check

*What to do When God is on the Other End of the Sermon*

2:13 And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is at work in you who believe. (NIV)

1. Receive It \_\_\_\_\_ (v.13a)

2. Embrace It \_\_\_\_\_ (v.13b)

3. Believe It \_\_\_\_\_ (v.13c)

# Application Questions

These questions are provided for your further study and application of today's message. It is recommended that you take time this week to write out your response to each of these questions. This will help to drive home the point of today's message and will help you apply the principles to your life situation. These questions are also used as the basis of discussion for many of our small group studies that meet throughout the week. For times and locations of PCC's small group gatherings that are meeting this week call the church office (949-489-2600).

1. There are few things that can impact our lives more profoundly than really experiencing God speak to us through a sermon at church. Though this is what God would want to have happen every week, unfortunately, often it does not. Admittedly, it is sometimes the preacher's fault but often it is our own fault. The easiest way to miss God speaking through the sermon is to fail to give our full attention to the message. What are some of the reasons that we sometimes fail at this?

What preparations can we make to ensure that we give our enthusiastic attention to each sermon?

2. Satan will use distractions of all kinds to keep our attention off of what God wants to say to us during the preaching of a sermon. This is not a modern problem. Note the following quotation from a sermon that Chrysostom preached during the fourth century: *"Please listen to me – you are not paying attention. I am talking to you about the Holy Scriptures, and you are looking at the lamps and the people lighting them. It is very frivolous to be more interested in what the lamplighters are doing... After all, I am lighting a lamp too – the lamp of God's word."* (As quoted by Adams in *A Consumer's Guide to Preaching*, p.81.) What are some of the distractions you have encountered during a sermon?

How can you minimize these distractions?

3. We often miss hearing from God because we are too focused on the preacher. Because all preachers are flawed we can easily be defensive or critical going into a sermon and actually miss what God is trying to say to us through the messenger. How do you think can we avoid this problem?

If your attitude is one of expectation that God is actually going to be speaking to you personally through next week's sermon, how would you prepare differently than you do on those weeks when you don't give it much thought?

4. We encounter the full impact of God's word only when we meet it with genuine faith. If we don't confidently believe that what God's word says is true and should have preeminence over all other thoughts and opinions we can never see his word work in our lives as he designed. What will you do to "sign the blank check" before each sermon?