INTRODUCTION - (James 1:19) "be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath"

1. WE HEAR A LOT IN A NOISY WORLD - much of it is not what we need to hear.

We may turn the volume down or off, change channels, just not listen, use ear-plugs.

2. WE SHOULD BE "SWIFT TO HEAR" GOD'S WORD

The context of (v19) "swift to hear" is in the surrounding verses:

(v18) "He brought us forth by the word of truth" and (v21) receive with meekness the implanted word which is able to save your souls."

"Swift" - quick; speedy; to be in haste.

"To hear" - a fast and attentive mind; a ready disposition to listen.

3. WHY? WHY BE "SWIFT TO HEAR"?

(Proverbs 21:11) "when the wise is instructed, he receives knowledge"
(Ephesians 5:17) "understand what the will of the Lord is"
(John 8:32) "the truth shall set you free" (Acts 20:32) "the word of His grace, which is able to build you up" (Romans 1:16) "power of God unto salvation"

Therefore, (Luke 8:18) "take heed how you hear" (Mark 4:24) "take heed what you hear" (Hebrews 2:1) "we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard"

4. THE RIGHT RESPONSE TO HEARING GOD'S WORD

Rejoice: (Acts 13:48) "they were glad, and glorified the word of the Lord" Respond: (Acts 2:41) "those who gladly received his word were baptized" Repent: (Acts 2:38) "repent and be baptized"

Research: (Acts 17:11) "they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so"

5. THE WRONG RESPONSE TO HEARING GOD'S WORD

(Zechariah 7:11) "they refused to heed, shrugged their shoulders, and stopped their ears" (Ezekiel 33:30-33) "they hear your words, but they do not do them" (John 6:66-69) "many went back and walked no more with Him" (Acts 7:51-55) "they gnashed at him with their teeth" (Acts 20:29-30) "draw away the disciples" (2 Timothy 4:1-5) "they will turn away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables"