

What Does it Mean to Have Itching Ears?

2 Timothy 4:3



- * The Greek word translated “itching” literally means “_____.” To want one’s ears “tickled” is to desire _____ rather than messages—sermons that _____ rather than challenge, _____ rather than edify, and _____ rather than preach.
- * “Itching ears” is a figure of speech that refers to people’s _____, felt _____, or _____.
- * When people have “itching ears,” they decide for _____ what is right or wrong, and they seek out others to support their notions. “Itching ears” are concerned with what _____ good or comfortable, not with the _____—after all, truth is often uncomfortable.
- * _____ today of people having “itching ears” includes the popularity of messages that people are not required to _____, as if _____ were outmoded; that people are basically _____; that God is too loving to _____ anyone; that the _____, with all its blood, is not necessary; and that God wants His children to be _____, _____, and _____ in this world.
- * As people turn their backs on the truth about _____ and _____, they disregard their need for repentance and forgiveness.
- * Some of the early followers of Jesus complained about some of the Lord’s words (John 6:60, 66). Walking away from _____ truth is easy to do.
- * Some pastors are afraid to _____ on certain passages subjects in the Bible: sin, hell, judgment, condemnation, homosexuality, predestination, etc.
- * The church’s quest to manage the _____ level of its audience must never take priority over preaching the Word. The fear of _____ people’s sensibilities can never supersede the fear of offending God.
- * The church today, more than ever, needs to re-examine the _____ it endorses. We need to ask ourselves the following questions:
 - * Are our _____ truly from God or simply itches we want to scratch?
 - * Are we _____ on solid biblical grounds, or have we allowed the world to influence our thinking?
 - * Are we _____ ourselves from the schemes of Satan (Eph. 6:11)?

* Are we _____ ourselves “*blameless for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ*” (1 Thess. 5:23)?

* The truth is, God is not concerned with _____ our itches but in _____ us into the image of His Son (Rom. 12:2; 2 Cor. 4:4).