

<http://www.cbfn.org/pmimages/friday%20worship.pdf>

Friday Evening Worship Service

Romans 10:5-17

“Hearing What is Said”

Fred Craddock

We've told ourselves we can walk the walk – I'll let my life be my witness. But the problem is it's not true. It's a cop-out. It's not enough to walk the walk. Someone has to talk the talk.

Look to Paul in Romans 10.

God is rich towards all who call on his name. Faith comes by hearing. What a strange thing that God has done. By hearing, the world can be saved. However, it's not so simple to hear.

Matthew 13 – the parable of the sower.

The seed that...

fell on a path – a worn track. People get used to what they hear. Hear it over and over, “been there, done that.” They tune it out.

Is Shallow – seed sprouts and then goes. Looks like they are interested and listening, but they are not. Surface opinions, surface thoughts. You get all excited and then...

Is in the weeds – they'll come up, but won't make it. Weeds **choke** it. Too much of everything.

Isaiah said it takes an act of God to hear. It's painful. Sometimes we don't want to hear. “God had to dig my ear out.”

I avoid what I don't want to hear. Somethings disturb you. You don't want to hear them. You don't have to listen if you don't want to. However, sometimes God sneaks in on you.

<http://www.cbfnc.org/pmimages/saturday%20worship.pdf>

Saturday Morning Worship Service

Romans 10:5-17

“Saying What is Heard”

Fred Craddock

Paul mixes Moses and Isaiah – evangelism of Jew and Gentile – hearing and speaking. Begins with the ear – but how can they hear unless someone is saying something. Ear and mouth are consorted in the saving of the world. Both are difficult.

Matthew 12 – by your words you’ll be justified or you’ll be condemned.

The right word at the right time by the right person. Don’t let culture dictate words – that they don’t mean anything. Words amount to everything. Can be difficult. The most difficult thing in the world to do, if it’s important, is to say something. Saying something, especially if saying the word “God,” is hard. Especially if out of your comfort zone.

Jesus knew – he said to the disciples, you stay in town until the Holy Spirit comes – we need help to speak.

Ministers – help congregants know – nervousness is part of it. Nervousness is way the body honors the seriousness of what you are doing.

Preach in a way others would talk – not preachy. Have people say to you after “Is that a sermon?”

Confession – let people who come to church make their own confession – say what they believe.

“I believe Jesus Christ is the Lord of my life and accept him as my Saviour.”

Preacher for the General Assembly, Dr. Fred Craddock

Dr. Fred B. Craddock is Bandy Distinguished Professor of Preaching and New Testament, Emeritus, in the Candler School of Theology, Emory University, Atlanta, GA. An ordained minister of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Dr. Craddock has served pastorates in Tennessee and Oklahoma.

Much sought after as a lecturer, he has delivered the Lyman Beecher Lectures at Yale, the Scott Lectures at Claremont School of Theology, the Adams Lectures at Southeastern Baptist Seminary, the Schaff Lectures at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, the Cole Lectures at Vanderbilt, the Westervelt Lectures at Austin Presbyterian Seminary, the Mullins Lectures at Southern Seminary, and Earl Lectures at Pacific School of Religion. Reported in *Newsweek* as one of America’s top preachers, Dr. Craddock, reared in rural Tennessee, speaks the folk idiom with prophetic authenticity. Dr. Craddock has written a number of books, including *The Pre-Existence of Christ* (1968), *As One Without Authority* (1971, rev. 1974 and 1979), *Overhearing the Gospel* (1978), *The Gospels* (1981), commentaries on John (1982) and Philippians (1984), *Preaching* (1985), and a commentary on Luke (1990). Dr. Craddock has also contributed articles to various journals.

A native of Humbolt, Tennessee, Dr. Craddock is married to the former Nettie Dungan. They have a daughter and a son.