

## 2 Timothy 4:1-5

### No Ear Ticklers

*In God's awesome presence ...*

#### I. A Charge

A. Preach

B. Steadily

C. Nurturingly

#### II. A Warning

A. Itchy Ears

B. Their Scratchers

C. And Their Demise

#### III. An Exhortation

A. Be Sober

B. Be Steadfast

C. Be and Evangelist

*... fulfill your ministry.*

### **Children, Listen ...**

1. Who "tickled" Eve's ears in the Garden of Eden?

2. If Adam and Even listened to him ... to whom did they NOT listen?

3. Where do we find all the truth we need about God and how to live for Him?

4. What does this Proverb mean?

Faithful are the wounds of a friend;

profuse (many) are the kisses of an enemy. *Proverbs 27:6*

### **He Who Has Ears**

I discovered that there are at least eight conditions that can cause literal itchy ears. If you are experiencing such a thing, see your doctor – actually, just google it, It's probably not anything too serious. But in our passage Paul is referring to a condition that is actually quite serious and of great concern. Of course, he is using "itching ears" metaphorically for a state of mind, a spiritual issue diagnosable as "ego." By nature, we really only want to hear what we want to hear about ourselves, and we basically want to hear good stuff. There's nothing wrong with enjoying sincere compliments – we all need encouragement now and then. But if we are never willing to receive negative input, we've got a problem. Paul and Timothy's concern is of course for the Gospel and the teaching of the Scripture. No one likes to hear about their sin – but awareness of the reality of sin in our lives is essential to both salvation and sanctification. Preachers and Bible teachers should be edifying, but they must never sugar coat man's condition in order to stroke egos. And let's all make sure we are willing to know and receive the Biblical truth about ourselves – the good, the bad, and even the ugly.