

## HOW TO AVOID “DRIFTING AWAY” FROM THE FAITH

Hebrews 2:1-18

### ***We Avoid Drifting Away From the Faith by Understanding That: THE NEW COVENANT THROUGH JESUS IS BETTER THAN THE OLD COVENANT (LAW)***

- “For if the message spoken through angels was legally binding and every transgression and disobedience received a just punishment, 3 how will we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? This salvation had its beginning when it was spoken of by the Lord, and it was confirmed to us by those who heard Him.” (Hebrews 2:2-3)
- The old covenant demanded our punishment for our sin, but Jesus took our punishment so that under the new covenant we can live in the grace and mercy of God.

### ***We Avoid Drifting Away From the Faith by Understanding That: JESUS IS THE BETTER ADAM***

- “For in **subjecting everything** to Him, He left nothing that is not subject to Him. As it is, we do *not yet* see **everything subjected** to Him. 9 But we do see Jesus—**made lower than the angels for a short time** so that by God’s grace He might taste death for everyone—**crowned with glory and honor because He suffered death.**” (Hebrews 2:8-9)
- “So it is written, **The first man Adam became a living being**; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit... The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven.” (1 Corinthians 15:45-47)
- Because of Adam we became enslaved to sin, but because of Jesus we can be redeemed and freed from sin and its consequences!
- “10 For in bringing many sons and daughters to glory, it was entirely appropriate that God—for whom and through whom all things exist—should make the Pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. 11 For the One who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father.” (Hebrews 2:10-11)
- One of the greatest blessings we experience through Christ is adoption into the family of God as sons and daughters.

***We Avoid Drifting Away From the Faith by Understanding That:***

## JESUS IS THE BETTER VICTOR

- “Now since the children have flesh and blood in common, Jesus also shared in these, so that through His death He might destroy the one holding the power of death—that is, the devil— 15 and free those who were held in slavery all their lives by the fear of death. 16 For it is clear that He does not reach out to help angels, but to help Abraham’s offspring.” (Hebrews 2:14-16)
- The death and resurrection of Jesus defeated our two biggest enemies: Death and the devil.
- “When this corruptible body is clothed with incorruptibility, and this mortal body is clothed with immortality, then the saying that is written will take place: **Death has been swallowed up in victory. 55 Where, death, is your victory? Where, death, is your sting?**” (1 Corinthians 15:54-55)
- There is no one or no thing that can help you overcome death and the devil except Jesus.

### ***We Avoid Drifting Away From the Faith by Understanding That: JESUS IS THE BETTER HIGH PRIEST***

- “Therefore, He had to be like His brothers and sisters in every way, so that He could become a merciful and faithful high priest in matters pertaining to God, to make atonement for the sins of the people. 18 For since He Himself has suffered when He was tempted, He is able to help those who are tempted.” (Hebrews 2:1-18)
- Because Jesus is our High Priest we no longer have to go through any other mediator to talk with God.
- Because Jesus was tempted in every way we are, He is able to help us overcome temptation in life.
- “For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has been tempted in every way as we are, yet without sin. 16 Therefore, let us approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in time of need.” (Hebrews 4:15-16)

# **CONNECT GROUP DISCUSSION**

## **Observation**

- What is the primary issue the writer of Hebrews is addressing in Hebrews 2:1?
- Why did the author of Hebrews use terms like “for”, “so that”, and “therefore” throughout Hebrews 2?
- What was the purpose of miracles, signs, wonders, and spiritual gifts given by the Holy Spirit? (vs. 4)

## **Understanding**

- What distractions or temptations can cause you to “drift away” from the faith if you are not on guard?
- Why is understanding sound doctrine so important to the Christian and the Church as a whole? How does it help keep you from “drifting away” from the faith?
- How is Jesus the better Adam? In what ways does that encourage you to stay close to Jesus?
- How is Jesus the better High Priest? How does that help you connect with Him?
- How does knowing that Jesus has *already* defeated the devil and death impact you?
- What is your big takeaway from this study on Hebrews 2?

## **Loving Outward:**

- Who do you need to share the gospel with this week?
- Who do you need to follow-up with regarding the gospel?
- Who are you bringing to church next Sunday?