

Heb 2:1-4

1 Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away. 2 For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, 3 how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him, 4 God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will?

Last week we studied on angels

- and what their purpose is
- and some of the tasks
- they've performed biblically.

We read that there is no one greater than Jesus.

We read of their ministry in the OT and in the NT.

We read of 4 functions of angels.

- 1) Worship and Praise God - Job 38:7, Psa 103:20, Isa 6:1-3 Rev 4:8, Rev 5:9-12
- 2) Communicate God's message to man - Acts 7:38 & 53, Dan 10:10-15, Rev 17:1, Rev 21:9, Rev 22:16, Matt 1:19-24
- 3) Minister to believers - Psa 34:7, Psa 91:11-12, Acts 5:19, Acts 12:6-11, Lk 15:10
- 4) Angels will be God's agents in the final earthly judgements and Second Coming - Matt 24:31, 1 Thess 4:16-17, Matt 13:39-42, Rev 19:17-20

We learned that a person's name held much greater significance than today.

His name represented a his character and personhood.

The scriptures make it clear that we are not to worship angels.

Jesus loves righteousness and hates lawlessness.

Jesus is the one spoken of in the Psalms as the coming anointed King and Savior.

Jesus is not only exalted above the angels

- but He is the eternal creator whereas angels are created.

Ultimately, we read that even angels worship Jesus.

Heb 2:1

1 Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away.

The word “give” as used here means to continue to strongly believe.

- It speaks of something that is coming
- and is of the highest priority.

I believe the author uses this word because it’s also used as a nautical term

- meaning to hold a ship in a direction,
- to sail towards or to hold one’s course toward a place.

The writer warns of drifting away.

I also believe the author was saying this,

- you who are now believers used to be Jews in Judaism
- but now you are Jews in Christ.

People are often distracted from God’s word

- because they stop reading His word.

Jesus warned in His parable of the Sower that the cares of life,

- wealth and pleasure can choke out
- the Word thus making it unfruitful.

Paul said in Romans not to be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

2 Tim 4:10

10 Demas has deserted me because he loves the things of this life and has gone to Thessalonica.

Jesus said 2 things regarding the Nicolaitans

The Ephesian church hated

- the deeds of the Nicolaitans
- of which Jesus Himself hated as well.

Then He said in Revelation, I hate their deeds.

A few moments later He said to the church of Pergamos

- that there were some that were holding
- to the doctrine of the Nicolaitans.

Nicolaitans likely comes from Greek roots.

- Nikos - “to conquer or to overcome” and
- Laos meaning - “the people.”

So combined this could mean

- “conquering the people or
- “one who lords over people.”

As a follower of Christ,

- we are responsible for what we know
- and what we do with what we know
- regarding the gospel message.

The author then says to give the more earnest heed (excessive or much greater)

The word “heed” means to consider carefully,

- to be alert for or to be addicted to.

He’s saying to give much more,

- in fact give in excess and consider carefully
- the things you have heard.

James encourages the believers in chapter 1:

James 1:22-24

22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. 23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; 24 for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was.

When a person surrenders to the Lord,

- he will want to be in fellowship with God.

Jesus said to the Samaritan woman that she would never thirst again

- if she drank of the water Jesus provides.

That’s how it is when you’ve tasted the goodness of God.

- You’re satisfied but you want more.

The same can be said of the person wanting more of the world.

- Sin is alluring to him.

The writer of Hebrews was warning of what was going to happen

- if the departing Jews did not heed
- to the things they’d heard.

The question then became,

- what are you going to do
- with what you’ve heard!

Mk 4:9, he who has ears to hear, let him hear.

See, it's possible to have ears to hear and still miss the message.

The author was trying to encourage the believers

- to listen to the things of God
- and not the things that were contrary.

The author of Hebrews warned what would happen

- if they didn't stay the course,
- they'd drift away.

Josh 24:26-27

26 Then Joshua wrote these words in the Book of the Law of God. And he took a large stone, and set it up there under the oak that was by the sanctuary of the Lord. 27 And Joshua said to all the people, "Behold, this stone shall be a witness to us, for it has heard all the words of the Lord which He spoke to us. It shall therefore be a witness to you, lest you deny your God."

If a person turns from what he's heard, he will answer for that.

You can share the gospel

- but it's up to each individual to receive it.

Mic 5:13 speaks of what God does for us when we make Him first in our life.

Mic 5:13

13 Your carved images I will also cut off,
And your sacred pillars from your midst;
You shall no more worship the work of your hands;

Paul said to the Corinthians when speaking of competing for a crown.

1 Cor 9:24-27

24 Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. 25 And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. 26 Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. 27 But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.

Don't run this race for a temporary crown, but run for the eternal.

We are to take in the good things of God

- and filter out the bad of the world.

Live your life so as to not become disqualified as Paul said.

The writer of Hebrews said to give earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away.

One of the ancient symbols for the church is a ship.

- We see in the NT several mentions of a ship or a boat.

The imagery Paul is using is that of a ship.

If it's not anchored, it will drift out into the depth of the ocean.

- And that's what was happening with this church,
- they were drifting into no man's land.

That's what happens to people when they drift from the Lord.

- They see the pleasures of sin
- so they take what they think
- will be a short detour
- and before they know it,
- they're long gone.

It's like snowflakes in the air.

A single flake causes no harm,

- but when the air is full of them
- it can bury us in a storm.

This word "drift" is used only here in Hebrews

- meaning "lest we drift away from that which we have heard."

With that said, the writer was saying to the Jews,

- hold on to what you've heard.

Do you all realize that we are to tremble at God's word.

- We are to treat it as holy and powerful.
- We should approach His word with a deep respect.

Heb 4:12

12 For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Isa 66:2

2 For all those things My hand has made,
And all those things exist,"
Says the Lord.
"But on this one will I look:

On him who is poor and of a contrite spirit,
And who trembles at My word.

Phil 2:12

12 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.

This is not implying that your salvation is based upon your works.

Rather, you are to take what you know

- and bring it out and apply it to your life.
- Invest in the things of God.

Heb 2:2

2 For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward,

The word “if” assumes a fulfilled condition

- and carries the idea, “in view that.”

So verse 2 can read, (in view of the fact that the Mosaic law was) steadfast and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward (meaning punishment),

Since we know that occurred, then we are to take what Jesus did for us

- even more seriously.

David Guzik said

A greater *word* brought by a greater *Person* having greater *promises* will bring a greater *condemnation* if it is neglected.

Heb 2:3

3 how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him,

When people disobeyed the law in the OT it brought swift judgement.

- Should we not expect the same in the New Covenant of salvation
- under our Savior Jesus Christ.

This word “neglect” is used 5 times in the NT meaning,

- to make light of or to disregard.”

The same Greek word for neglect is found in Matt 22:

Matt 22:1-5

1 And Jesus answered and spoke to them (crowd) again by parables and said: 2 "The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son, 3 and sent out his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding; and they were not willing to come. 4 Again, he sent out other servants, saying, 'Tell those who are invited, "See, I have prepared my dinner; my oxen and fatted cattle are killed, and all things are ready. Come to the wedding."' 5 But they made light of it (neglected it) and went their ways, one to his own farm, another to his business.

It means that they had the opportunity,

- but they chose to ignore or neglect
- or to disregard the opportunity.

The danger for the Jewish Christians was not that they rejected salvation,

- but the danger was neglecting salvation.

The author said, how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation,

If something is great, why would someone depart from it

- unless they found something greater.

There is none better:

Isa 45:22

22 "Look to Me, and be saved,
All you ends of the earth!
For I am God, and there is no other.

Ps 62:1-2

1 Truly my soul silently waits for God;
From Him comes my salvation.
2 He only is my rock and my salvation;
He is my defense;
I shall not be greatly moved.

Acts 4:12

12 Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

If someone is neglecting so great a salvation,

- it's probably because they don't see it as salvation.

Jesus made it simple for us. We're told in John 1:

John 1:12

12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: (to believe in His authority)

Lou-Nida lexicon

To receive or accept an object or benefit for which the initiative rests with the giver, but the focus of attention in the transfer is upon the receiver—"to receive, receiving, to accept."¹

Jesus said,

John 6:37-40

37 All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out. 38 For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. 39 This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day. 40 And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day."

People will say, I don't see Him.

- Well, that's because they're not looking for Him,
- they're not looking thru the eyes of faith.

And when people do look thru the eyes of faith

- and not thru the eyes of the world,
- they will begin to recognize Him for who He is.

Rom 8:1

8 There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.

If a person sets his mind on the things of the flesh,

- then he's going to walk according to the flesh.

But if he sets his mind on the things of the Spirit,

- then he will walk according to the Spirit.

Heb 2:4

4 God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will?

God confirms His word with various miracles,

- and gifts of the Holy Spirit
- but He does it according to His will,
- not man's will.

¹ Louw, J.P. and Nida, E.A. (1996) *Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament: based on semantic domains*. electronic ed. of the 2nd edition. New York: United Bible Societies.

Matt 12:39

39 But He answered and said to them, "An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah.

He was taking them back to the OT

- where idolatry and turning away from God
- were often described as adultery.

The people Jesus spoke to were not looking for signs out of a sincere faith.

- Instead, they were trying to trap Him.

Unfortunately, they had already decided in their heart not to believe Him.

Jesus and the apostles said that in the last days deceivers would come with signs and wonders.

People are ready to believe anything that is different if it seems real.

How can we keep from believing a lie, know the truth!

Miracles don't convert hearts, it's God's word, it's putting your faith in Jesus Christ.