

Good morning and thank you for joining us! We're picking up our study in Hebrews, so would you please turn in your Bibles to Hebrews 2?

Now last week we studied all of 1 verse, verse 1 of chapter 2 as we talked about the dangers of drifting.

Remember in v1 it says we can't drift from the things we have heard, the truth of Jesus.

SHOW PIC We live in a day where it's hard to know if people are telling the truth. It's hard with the news to know if they're telling the truth. **CLOSE PIC**

I came across a story where there was a dinner for the media, and somebody stood up and offered a toast to the Independent Press. There was a man there, John Swinton, who was the chief editor of the NYT. It says when he heard this toast of the Independent Press, he was outraged. He stood up and he said this in response:

"There is no such thing at this date in the world's history in America as an independent press, you know it and I know it.

There is not one word, there is not one of you who dares to write your honest opinions. And if you did, you know beforehand that it would never appear in print.

I am paid weekly for keeping my honest opinion out of the paper.

If I allowed my honest opinions to appear in one issue of my paper before 24 hours, my occupation would be gone.

The business of the journalist is to destroy the truth. To lie outright, to pervert, to vilify, to fawn at the feet of mammon. And to sell his country for his daily bread. You know it and I know it. And what folly is this toasting of an independent press? We are the tools and vassals of rich men behind the scenes. We are the jumping jacks. They pull the strings. We dance.

Our talents, our possibilities, our lives are all the property of other men. We are intellectual prostitutes.”

That speech was given by John Swinton, [SHOW PIC](#) but it may surprise you to know that speech was given in the year 1880, over 140 years ago. Things haven't changed much have they?

[CLOSE PIC](#)

I mention that because as we see AI grow and we can't trust our eyes, we begin to get skeptical and cynical of everything, and inwardly we can just be seething.

But there's one place we can go to get back to truth, to the anchor that never wavers.

This morning we're gonna be reminded of what Jesus has done for us. We're gonna study all of Hebrews 2, this can be some tough verses, so let's read them to make sure we don't miss the context, then we'll dive in.

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?

5 For He has not put the world to come, of which we speak, in subjection to angels. 6 But one testified in a certain place, saying:

“What is man that You are mindful of him,
Or the son of man that You take care of him?
7 You have made him a little lower than the angels;
You have crowned him with glory and honor,[fn]
And set him over the works of Your hands.
8 You have put all things in subjection under his feet.”[fn]

For in that He put all in subjection under him, He left nothing that is not put under him. But now we do not yet see all things put under him. 9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone.

10 For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings. 11 For both He who

sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are all of one, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren, 12 saying:

“I will declare Your name to My brethren;
In the midst of the assembly I will sing praise to You.”[fn]

13 And again:

“I will put My trust in Him.”[fn]

And again:

“Here am I and the children whom God has given Me.”[fn]

14 Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, 15 and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. 16 For indeed He does not give aid to angels, but He does give aid to the seed of Abraham. 17 Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. 18 For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.

The title of this mornings message is Thankful for Christ!
Let's pray

1-2

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, You go back to Deuteronomy 33, it tells us the angels were involved in the communicating of the Mosaic Law.

And as you study the OT, you see that the Mosaic Law was exactly as v2 describes-it was steadfast. Every transgression and disobedience received a just reward. The Mosaic law demanded to be taken seriously.

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, What's this telling us? Well if we must take the word which came by angels seriously, then we must take the word that came by the Son of God even more seriously.

Jesus is proven to be greater than the angels, so Jesus' message should be regarded as greater.

Remember the book of Hebrews was written as an encouragement and warning to discouraged Christians. It was written to those who were tempted to neglect their walk with Christ.

Think about it. We don't neglect anything that we highly value.

SHOW PIC You see those guys who love their cars, out their

buffing and shining their tires. They don't neglect it because they highly value it. **CLOSE PIC**

Or if someone has their favorite tv show, they make sure they see it every week-they don't neglect it b/c it's highly valued.

Anything we neglect, we are saying we don't consider it great. Yet our salvation is great, because we are saved by a great Savior.

And not only that we are saved at a great cost. It cost Jesus everything. And of course we don't want to neglect our salvation because we are saved from a great penalty.

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 does confirm His word with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit. But He does it all according to His own will, not on the command of man.

We can't work up miracles or signs and wonders by human effort or emotion. You can't prime the pump with the enthusiasm of the flesh, although some folks certainly try don't they?

5 For He has not put the world to come, of which we speak, in subjection to angels. As awesome and fearsome as angels are, God never gave angels dominion over this world or the world to come. When Christ returns, it won't be angels that are presiding over the things of the Kingdom, but mankind will be.

v5 is reminding us that our destiny as followers of Christ far surpasses the destiny of angels. **1 Corinthians 6:3 Do you not know that we shall judge angels? How much more, things that pertain to this life?**

Our destiny is one of full restoration. We will once again be made higher than the angels. We will be restored to where we were supposed to be before sin entered into the garden.

6 But one testified in a certain place, saying:

**“What is man that You are mindful of him,
Or the son of man that You take care of him?** Here the author of Hebrews quotes the psalmist, David in Psalm 8.

Picture a young shepherd boy, lying in the open field, curled up in his bedroll, next to a dwindling fire. David gazes into the night sky. **SHOW PIC** Out in the countryside, away from the city lights, you can see 3,000 stars with the naked eye. **CLOSE PIC**

David is admiring God’s handiwork - the beauty and enormity of His creation. He’s pondering God. It suddenly hits David, while he is sitting on earth thinking of God, God is in heaven thinking of him!

We know that our sun is 93,000,000 miles away. **SHOW PIC** You could take 1,300,000 earths and put them inside the sun. Now, somewhere on the Earth, sitting here in church, is us. **CLOSE PIC**

The Earth seems so big, it's nothing compared to the sun. The sun is so big.

SHOW PIC But 24 trillion miles away in the shoulder of Orion is Betelgeuse and that's 766 million miles in diameter. And you could take our sun 1.2m times and put that into Betelgeuse.

Then that little speck of the our solar system, there's a planet, and on that planet there's a little particle of dust there called Brian.

CLOSE PIC

...6 "What is man that You are mindful of him,
Or the son of man that You take care of him

One of the hard realities of growing up as a teenager into a young adult is realizing that nobody else's world revolves around you!

Some of you may remember Ann Landers. She said-in your 20's you care what people think. In your thirties, you decide you no longer care what people think about you. When you hit your forties, you realize people haven't been thinking about you at all

But that's not the case with God! God thinks about you! He created you, He loves you, even at your lowest point and darkest moment.

The heavens of the heavens can't contain God, and yet He can stoop down to a kid in Sunday school class singing Jesus loves me.

David continues in psalm 8 just flabbergasted about God:

7 You have made him a little lower than the angels;
You have crowned him with glory and honor,[fn]
And set him over the works of Your hands. In terms of our physical composition humans aren't much.

SHOW PIC About 99% of the mass of the human body is made up of six elements: oxygen, carbon, hydrogen, nitrogen, calcium, and phosphorus. Less than 1% is composed of another five elements: potassium, sulfur, sodium, chlorine, & magnesium.

CLOSE PIC

You can purchase the raw materials that make up a human body with a \$20 bill and still get change. But your value isn't wrapped up in what you are - but in whose you are. You are God's child!

In chapter one, the writer to the Hebrews brilliantly demonstrated from the Scriptures the deity of Jesus and His superiority over all angels. Now the author demonstrate Jesus' humanity.

8 You have put all things in subjection under his feet.”[fn]

For in that He put all in subjection under him, He left nothing that is not put under him. But now we do not yet see all things put under him. There are many things we will not understand until we see Jesus. The answers to life's most perplexing questions are not found in asking "Why?" The greatest answer is a Who — Jesus Christ.

9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone. Hey verse 9 is the Christmas message! Jesus, stepping down from the throne of God over the angels to the womb of a virgin. Born in Bethlehem, so that He can fully partake of death on behalf of, and instead of every individual.

We don't often think of the cross with Christmas, but we should!

God gave man dominion over the earth, but man forfeited his power to take that dominion through sin, and brought forth death

But Jesus came and through His humility and suffering He defeated the power of death and made possible the fulfillment of God's promise that humans will have dominion over the earth when Christ returns.

10 For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

We don't often think of Jesus as captain, but we should! Think about what captain does:

A captain leads by example

A captain encourages His soldiers

A captain rewards His troops

A captain sees things the soldiers don't

The list goes on and on.

And notice v10 how did Jesus become the captain of our salvation-through suffering.

11 For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are all of one, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren, The King of Creation calls us His “brethren.” The day I pledged my life to Jesus, He became my big brother! Sometimes big brothers pick on their siblings, but not Jesus. He picks us up!

Jesus is never ashamed of you. He died for you.

12 saying:

“I will declare Your name to My brethren;
In the midst of the assembly I will sing praise to You.”^[fn] This wonderful quote from Psalm 22 reminds us that Jesus sang, singing worship to His Father among His brethren.

I see christians standing arms crossed, ‘I don't sing’. It just reveals you think way too much of yourself if you’re not willing to be like Jesus and sing in worship to God.

13 And again:

“I will put My trust in Him.”^[fn]

And again:

“Here am I and the children whom God has given Me.”[fn] Jesus doesn’t take advantage of us. Jesus doesn’t abuse or neglect or mistreat us, nor will He ever turn His back on His kids! **John 6:37**
All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.

14-15

14 Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, 15 and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. Through His death Jesus destroyed him who had the “power of death,” freeing us from the “fear of death.” On the cross Jesus stripped Satan of death’s power.

The tombstone has become a stepping stone to glory.

Our world lives in fear of death. But war doesn't increase death. Disease doesn't increase death. Death is total in every generation. 100 people born, 100 people die. It's inescapable.

‘Well, I'll put myself in a cryogenic chamber’ Then there'll be a power outage, you'll have freezer burn by the time they figure out what they're doing.

But for the follower of Jesus, we know when we close our eyes in this world, we’ll open them up in glory.

Jesus paid sin's penalty. In Christ, death is no longer a punishment for sin. It's now a graduation to a greater blessing, an eternal life in Christ.

16-17

16 For indeed He does not give aid to angels, but He does give aid to the seed of Abraham. 17 Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, pause here. One reason God's Son became man was to qualify as priest. The Latin word for "priest" is "pontif" or "bridge-builder."

Jesus built history's longest bridge - from heaven to earth, from God to man. And God had two requirements for a good priest. He has to be faithful to God, and merciful toward man. A priest had to represent God's truth clearly and boldly; yet he also had to empathize with man's frailty.

Most people go to one extreme or the other. They stand up for truth, and become judgmental - or they sympathize with man, and soften God's demands. But not Jesus! He is both faithful and merciful, **John 1:17 For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.**

You OT students recall that the High Priest wore a breastplate **SHOW PIC** with stones engraved with the names of the tribes of Israel on both his chest and his shoulders. The High Priest was carrying them on his heart and on his shoulders. **CLOSE PIC**

...17 to make propitiation for the sins of the people. The

term “propitiation” means “a place of mercy.” The Hebrew word is “kipporeth” or “mercyseat.” **SHOW PIC** The mercy seat was the gold lid that covered the Ark of the Covenant in the Temple’s innermost sanctum. Over this mercy seat God’s glory rested. This was where the priest applied the blood, and atoned for sin.

CLOSE PIC

God’s truth and mercy were reconciled at the mercy seat. In this one place God’s righteousness was satisfied and His compassion was realized. And today Jesus is our mercy seat. He is the one place in the world where sinful people can find mercy.

18 For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted. The words “able to aid” is the translation of a Greek phrase which means “to run to the cry of a child.” A mom, you know, you can have all kinds of stuff going on at the house and you got a baby upstairs in the crib and the baby makes a sound and your wife says, you hear that?

I didn't hear nothing, you know, just that, that ability to hear a cry and then run to the aid.

That's our word here for that **He Himself has suffered, being tempted,** Jesus stepped into our shoes and into our skin. Because of that, he is able to run to the aid of those who are tempted.

He doesn't say Oh, you again

We'll learn in Hebrews, Jesus is sufficient for every need.