<u>TEXT SUMMARY</u>

Our text is <u>Hebrews 2:1-4</u>. Here the writer turns from his chain of reasoning in chapter one to his first of several exhortations scattered throughout the epistle.

Many scholars feel that the chapter division should have come after 2:4. This is because the first paragraph of ch 2 seems to conclude the argument of ch 1 rather than open a new thought.

INTRODUCTION (OBSERVATION):

- The text opens with the most potent of the connective devices: "therefore." Sometimes "therefore" merely connects two paragraphs. Sometimes it serves a greater purpose, bringing several paragraphs to a conclusion. To get a sense of how the word is being used, read from 1:1-2:4.
- 2. What two reasons does the writer give to support his exhortation to "pay much closer attention"? (v. 1, 2-3)
- 3. In v. 2-3 the writer employs a rabbinic form of argument that would have been familiar to his audience, an if-then argument that reasons from the lesser to the greater. Paraphrase (or read in a paraphrase) v. 2-3 to be sure you understand his argument.
- What four assertions does the writer make about the "great salvation" God has given us in Christ? (v. 3-4)
- 5. What does the pronoun "it" refer to in v. 3?

DISCUSSION (INTERPRETATION):

How does the writer once again emphasize the superiority of what we have in Christ?

DIVING DEEPER DISCUSSION GUIDE

SO WHAT? (APPLICATION):

Here we move toward first-person pronouns as we begin to consider how we must respond to what God has said in His Word.

- 1. The writer warns that if we are careless or inattentive with the Gospel, we run the risk of "drifting away."
 - Have you ever experienced the loss of something precious due to inattention or carelessness?
 - What does careless inattention to God's Word look like in a person's life?
- 2. The writer urges his audience to "pay much closer attention to what [they] have heard" (v. 1). This audience (Jewish Christ-followers) would have known the Hebrew Scriptures well (the Old Testament); now they are being exhorted to attend diligently to the newly revealed Gospel message about Jesus: his life, teachings, death, and

resurrection.

- What can you do to "pay much closer attention" to what you hear from God's Word on Sunday mornings (sermon, class)?
- What are some things you are doing now to engage with God's Word outside Sunday mornings?
- When you do engage with God's Word on your own, what can you do to engage with it more attentively?
- 3. The writer speaks of the "great salvation" we have in Christ. The sermon quoted from the book <u>Gentle and Lowly</u> that we need a "to the uttermost" Savior because we are "to the uttermost" sinners. How has God's salvation in Christ been "great" and "to the uttermost" in your own life?

