

Hebrews 2.1-4

Dangerous Drifting

Who is the G.O.A.T.? – Question America asks about our Heroes – Sports, Music, Movies

Greatest of All Time? --- BIG Claim! Lots of Strong OPINIONS!

GREAT Restaurant --- GREAT Podcast --- GREAT Church >> Lots of PRESSURE!

Use WORD ‘Great’ so Often – Not SO Great ANYMORE!

HEBREWS > Describes Something that IMPACTS Eternity for Entire Human Race

NO Exaggeration for Writer of Hebrews to describe Work of Jesus Christ as

1. Such a Great Salvation!

Chapter 1 – CELEBRATION and DECLARATION

God SPEAKS --- God SAVES --- fully Seen in God’s SON

Message Presented: 2 sets of 7 --- 7 = Finality / Completion - ‘**these last days**’ 1.2

1.1-4 --- 7 Excellencies of Jesus // 1.5-14 – 7 Hebrew Scriptures > Jesus is GOD > ANGELS

2.3 SUCH A GREAT SALVATION! // Summarizes Chapter 1 with PRAISE!

vs. 3 & 4 – HOW God DELIVERED this Good News of Great Salvation TO US...

vs. 3 & 4 great salvation...was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard, while God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.

a. Author: The Father --- Source of SCRIPTURE and SALVATION

1.1 Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets,

Emphasis on Sovereign PLAN and PURPOSE of God the FATHER

1.5 For to which of the angels did God ever say,

1.6 And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says,

1.7 Of the angels he says, // 1.8 But of the Son he says,

2. 2 the message declared by angels proved to be reliable

Because it is FROM GOD their MESSAGE was RELIABLE

b. Announced by Jesus > v. 3 It was declared at first by the Lord > JESUS

ANGELS are MESSENGERS > JESUS brings FULL and FINAL Message of God

Don’t NEED another PROPHET or APOSTLE – Book of Mormon, Quran, Watchtower

“in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son” Hebrews 1.2 / PAST TENSE, PAU!

Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.” Mark 1.15

He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. Acts 1.3

c. Attested by Apostles v. 3 it was attested to us by those who heard > APOSTLES

Jesus did NOT WRITE the Bible – Appointed APOSTLES “Authorized Messengers”

EYE-WITNESSES and EAR-WITNESSES > Sat at Feet of Lord Jesus and LEARNED

Apostle John: “That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us— that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you...

1 John 1.1-3

APOSTLES of Jesus HEARD his Teaching – SAW his Death AND Resurrection

Jesus: When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. Jn 16.13,14

APOSTLES wrote under inspiration of Holy Spirit ---

If have RED Letter Bible --- EVERY word should be RED --- ALL the Words of Jesus

Paul, an apostle—not from men nor through man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead... For I did not receive it (the gospel) from any man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ. Galatians 1.1,12

Very UNLIKELY this Letter Written by PAUL – 1st Gen Apostle – Saw Jesus

2.3 “attested to us by those who heard” – NOT Sound like Paul – Bold Claim Saw Jesus!

d. Audience of First Church

v. 3 it was attested to us by those who heard > AUTHOR & READERS 2nd Generation Xtians

2 Generations PASSED Since Ascension of Jesus > Small, Struggling, Suffering CHURCH

Accepting Jesus words’ brought Physical Suffering & Public Shame

Gospel PREACHERS were Publicly SCORNE and Considered CRIMINALS

e. Affirmed by God’s Miracles > FINAL Witness is GOD > MIRACLES

2.4 while God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.

Greatest MIRACLE > Bible --- 66 Books, 40 Authors, 2 Languages, 1000 yrs

ONE Unified, Consistent, Message of GOD revealed as Father, Son, Spirit

Pastored English language church BEIJING > people from 100 Countries / Denoms.

United in Christ – Filled with Spirit – Standing on Foundation of Scriptures
 SUCH A GREAT SALVATION! Amen! Hallelujah!!

2. We Must Pay Closer Attention!

2.1 Therefore, we must pay closer attention to what we have heard...

2.1 “Therefore” --- When you see Therefore, ask WHAT is it THERE FOR?

CLIMAX of Teaching on ANGELS --- Application of SERMON in Chapter 1

REMEMBER – Chapter/Verse division in Bible added over 1000 years LATER

Chapter 1 --- Joyful Declaration >> No DEMANDS or COMMANDS > Great News of Jesus

Jesus is WORSHIPPED by ANGELS > He is their CREATOR and SOVEREIGN > and Yours!

1st Command in Letter of Hebrews – 2.1 “we must pay closer attention to what we have heard”

1st of 6 EXHORTATIONS Hebrews > If Jesus is BETTER than you MUST LISTEN to Him!

LISTEN --- What are you Listening To? All Listen? Even Deaf people Listen to Something?

Find favorite PODCAST – Audio Books – News Programs – Music Groups – Favorite TEAM

MAKE EFFORT to Find, Get, Download, Save what WANT TO LISTEN TO

How much EFFORT are you MAKING to LISTEN to Jesus Christ?

IMPORTANT Theme of Letter to HEBREWS...LISTEN to Jesus --- LOOK to HIM!

3.1 Therefore, holy brothers, you who share in a heavenly calling, **consider Jesus**, the apostle and high priest of our confession...

a. Choice with Consequences

Recipients of Letter: 2 Generations after Jesus Ascended > NEVER Saw Him on EARTH

Lots of Neighbors NOT Following Jesus – Following Jesus got them into Serious TROUBLE

MOST of their Neighbors said JESUS is NOT REAL and NOT GREAT

Pharaoh’s MAGICIANS did some of Same MIRACLES that Moses & Aaron DID

Even SATAN can perform his Own SIGNS and WONDERS

Battle going on NOW – In this ROOM --- In your HEART / OTHER things are GREAT!

1st Xtian Generation KNOWS / 2nd Gen ASSUMES / 3rd Gen FORGETS what they BELIEVE

We LEAK the Truth of God --- Gotta KEEP FILLING UP – Reading, Teaching, Listen!

2.2,3 the message declared by angels proved to be reliable, and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation?

OLD Covenant >> PUNISHMENT for IGNORING Word of ANGEL > DEATH

when the Lord came from Sinai 'at his right hand were angels with him' Deut 33.2 LXX

the law... it was put in place through angels Galatians 3.19

RABBINIC Teaching > Argues from LESSER to GREATER

If it is DEADLY to IGNORE Word of an ANGEL

HOW Dare we IGNORE the CREATOR of the ANGELS

CAPSTONE of REVELATION and REDEMPTION is JESUS CHRIST

If the breakers of the law did not go unpunished, certainly despisers of the gospel cannot expect to do so.
P.E. Hughes

b. Dangerous Drifting

2.1 we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it.

Greek Word here – Describes BOAT allowed to DRIFT Away Aimlessly

RING that SLIPS OFF a Finger // WATER that LEAKS Out of a Cracked JAR

Only time word used in N.T. >> DRIFT > Lay on Air Mattress --- RELAX! Float Along!!

Picture in this Verse > Life is RIVER --- FLOWING >> Going Somewhere!

SADLY, this part of Scripture teaches LIFE'S RIVER is FLOWING to HELL

Don't have to DO ANYTHING to Get There – River goes right to Hell

Easy to get to Hell --- Do Nothing! --- Just DRIFT!

If you are Christian THINKING > "I am glad he's talking to those Non-Xtians"

Actually, I am TALKING to YOU > Hebrews written to People in CHURCH

Heb. Exhortations & Warnings get Stronger > All Spoken to People on Inside

Easy to DRIFT when ALL IS WELL --- Family, Finances, Future – No Worries

Doing FINE without Praying, Worshipping, Reading Bible, Going to Church

Supertankers carry OIL across World's Oceans – takes 20 minutes to FULL STOP

After TURNED OFF Engines DRIFT for 15 MORE Miles

Some of YOU Turned Off your ENGINE of Faith – 2 miles back – Moving FAST!!

ENGINE is OFF > Actually just DRIFTING!

UNDERSTAND Important Point of Christian FAITH

There is NOTHING we can do to GET Our Salvation – GIFT, GRACE, MERCY, Undeserved

But Jesus DEMANDS we do Everything we Can to KEEP Our Salvation

“In the matter of righteousness and justification we can never say too often that we do nothing, we can do nothing, it is entirely the work of Christ. But once we are saved and are given this new life, then the progressive work of sanctification does not call for passivity, and we are exhorted to activity.”

Martyn Lloyd-Jones

Writer tells Church they must DO Something to STOP Drifting – Exhort One Another Daily

Run the Race with Endurance -- Draw Near to God -- Grow up into Maturity

Not sure if you heard about it Hawaii but was GLOBAL PANDEMIC called COVID

We LIVED in CHINA at Time ---- Fact we PROBABLY Sent it to Rest of WORLD!

2 Things CHRISTIANS in CHINA --- All Denominations --- Sure About....

1) JOB of Christian to tell PEOPLE about Jesus – Vocal Minority – Tell w/ LIVES & LIPS

2) GOVT is NO FRIEND of God, Church, People of God, and GOSPEL Ministry

NORMAL for Church in China to Respectfully Disobey – OBEY God, Not CAESAR

Esp when GOVT Demands Church STOP Doing their NUMBER One MISSION > Tell Others

So, FORBIDDEN to Gather in Big Meetings > But Believers Still Met

Chinese Believers DID NOT take COVID as Excuse to Stay Home in Pajamas on Sundays

Met in Homes, Dorm Rooms, Restaurants, Parks, Subway Cars and Buses, Visited Neighbors

Did NOT Let NEIGHBORS Die w/out TELLING them HOW to get to HEAVEN

Like PAUL “To LIVE is Christ, to DIE is GAIN!”

Philippians 1.21

Last year TRAVELED Across America – 20,000 miles - ___ States – Dozens Churches

1) Most American Xtans WANT Needs Met – Church about Me – Feel Good – Entertained

2) Most Americans think GOVT is their FRIEND

Many GOOD Things about America – I am a PROUD PATRIOT – Want No other Passport

When GOVT closes CHURCHES sounds a lot like CHINA to me!

Hebrews written to Christians who REFUSED to do what GOVT told them to DO

GOVT told them to WORSHIP Caesar – Cool IT on JESUS – Go BACK to Synagogue

Xtians Made LONELY, UNPOPULAR, DANGEROUS Choice to NOT DRIFT w/ SOCIETY

Picked Up their CROSS – Following Jesus on DEATH March – HATED by World

World Health Org – Statistics of COVID Cases, Deaths, Recoveries / NOT Most Impt DATA

Statistic THAT is MOST Grievous > How many went to HELL from COVID?

NOT how many DIED --- Everyone going to DIE --- Believer, Death is Doorway to DELIGHT

Personal Accomplishment > I never GOT Covid – My Family Never Got

OR, if we got COVID we SURVIVED --- I am HAPPY you all are ALIVE!

Important Accomplishment: How many people did you KEEP out of Hell during COVID?

Jesus: “Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.”
Matthew 10.28

Jesus TALKED More about Hell than Heaven > Did Not Want Anyone To Go There!

He did MORE than ANYONE to KEEP People OUT! Gave His Very LIFE!

GREATEST NEWS > LORD of Angels went LOWER than the Angels...

After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high
Hebrews 1.3

Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.
Hebrews 2.9

he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him
Hebrews 5.9

He is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him
Hebrews 7.25

Hebrews 2.¹Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it.
²For since the message declared by angels proved to be reliable, and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, ³how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard, ⁴while God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.