

“So GREAT A Salvation”
Hebrews 2:1-4
11/23/25
Message 3

Introduction

- Title Of The Message: “So GREAT A Salvation”

- ***The Other Titles I thought about***

- “Don’t Drift Away”

- “Even A Good Thing Can Be A Bad Thing, If It Keeps You From The Best Thing”

- ***Illustration – Don’t Drift***

- ***Sir William Edward Parry FRS***

- Lived from –

- December 1790 – July 1855

- Was a Royal Navy officer and explorer

- Best known for his 1819–1820 expedition through the Parry Channel,

- Probably the most successful in the long quest for the Northwest Passage

- ***Their Famous Trip***

- When William Parry and his crew of Intrepid adventurers were charting the Arctic Ocean

- They wanted to go farther than they’d been before

- So they calculated their location by the stars and started a treacherous march north.
- They walked for hours, and finally, totally exhausted, they stopped.
- Taking their bearings again, they discovered that they were farther south than they had been when they started.
- It turns out they'd been walking on an ICE FLOE
 - That was moving south faster than they were walking north.
 - The ocean currents had unknowingly worked against them and they had drifted far from their goal.
- **Maybe this Has this Happened to you...?**
 - While Playing in the Ocean
 - Looking back to see family and your stuff notice that they were not there...
 - Only to look to your right or left to see they were now down a ways
- **The Writer Of Hebrews – Sends a WARNING**
 - Don't DRIFT
 - He warns his readers about the Danger of Drifting.
 - Just Like Parry and his crew
 - We live our lives in the midst of subtle currents that work against our course in Christ.

- The writer wants us to know
 - There's a way to make sure we arrive at our intended destination
 - We DON'T have to drift
- **This is the First of 5 WARNINGS**
 - The others are in: (3:7-4:11; 5:11-6:20; 10:26-31; 12:18-20)
 - These admonitions become stronger as we progress through the book
 - From drifting from God's Word to defying God's Word (Heb. 12:14–29).
 - Their purpose is to Encourage / Challenge ALL readers to pay attention to God's Word and Obey It
- **Now the BIG Question**
 - Who are these WARNING written to?
 - The Jewish People – YES
 - The Jewish Believers – YES
 - Hebrews was written to Jewish Christians who were being pressured to renounce their faith in Christ and revert to the Judaism of their past.
 - Jewish Believers who had pulled back a bit from their fervency of faith in Him – YES
 - Lance Ralston
 - *What he writes here is a sober warning to those who weren't necessarily*

thinking about renouncing Christ outright, but who had pulled back a bit from their fervency of faith in Him

- All Believers – YES

- **Wiersbe; “The admonition is written to believers, for the writer includes himself when he writes “we.” The danger here is that of neglecting our salvation. Please note that the author did not write “rejecting” but “neglecting.” He is not encouraging sinners to become Christians; rather, he is encouraging Christians to pay attention to the great salvation they have received from the Lord.**

- **These Warning Bring Up The Eternal Security Of The Believers**

- **Before we address this issue...**

- 1. I have addressed this issue many times in the past –
 - Despite warning not to because of it divisive nature
 - Passion on both sides of the debate
 - 2. We should NOT be afraid of discussing and Issue because people have different opinions
 - We should learn HOW to discuss
 - Respect those who have different views on this
 - Learn to see both sides
 - Understand why you believe in your side
 - Have a civil conversation and grow
 - 3. The Issue

- Once Saved Always Saved
- Or You can Walk Away from your salvation
- You can have your side – BUT we will not divide

▪ **NOW The Passage before us says – DRIFT AWAY**

- Clearly that speaks of drifted from a place you once were
- So does that mean you can walk away from a place of Salvation?
 - Now those who support that view – Believe this proves you can
 - There also many other scriptures as well to support that view
 - We will see more of them in this great book

▪ **Those who believe in the Eternal Security**

- Will say that –
 - They walked away from a solid walk
 - Or that it written to Jewish people who have not really made a firm commitment to Christ

▪ **My Thoughts**

- 1. The Writer says WE
 - Written to Everyone
- 2. Some hard warnings in this book
 - Sure make it sound like you can walk away

- 3. I personally Believe that if you are truly saved you are saved
 - Romans 6-8
 - Ephesians 1

Ephesians 1:13–14 (NKJV)

13 In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise,

14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

- 4. I will NOT allow this issue to become divisive
- 5. WE MUST PAY ATTENTION (Take HEED) to the WARNINGS

• **Keys To Hebrews**

○ **Importance Of Hebrews**

▪ **1. Connecting the Testaments**

- Some people think the Old Testament is irrelevant.
 - YET - The entire book of Hebrews is built upon the clear foundation of the Old Testament.
- You aren't going to understand the book of Hebrews
 - If you don't understand the Old Testament.

▪ **2. Jesus is Superior**

- One of the key words of Hebrews is BETTER
 - Better - 11 Times
 - Superior - 4 times

- Greater - 7 Times
- Jesus is BETTER Than
 - The Prophets - Ch 1
 - The Angels - Ch 1-2
 - Moses - Ch 3
 - Joshua – Ch 4
 - The High Priest – Ch 5-9
 - The Tabernacle Ch 9
 - The Law & Sacrifices Ch 10
- **3. Encouragement - Don't quit**
 - The ultimate goal of the book
 - To encourage those who are struggling with difficult times, and help them to endure.
 - Hebrews 2:1 – Pay More Careful Attention
 - Hebrews 2:1 – Don't Drift Away
 - Hebrews 3:6 - Hold on to courage and hope
 - Hebrews 3:12 – Do not turn away from the living God
 - Hebrews 4:14 – Hold Firmly to the Faith
 - Hebrews 6:1 – Go on to maturity
 - Hebrews 10:35 – Do Not Throw away your confession

- Hebrews 10:39 – Do not shrink Back
- Hebrews 12:1 – Run the race

• **Now this morning 4 POWERFUL TRUTHS to SO GREAT is Our Salvation**

- The Reason For The Warning v. 1
- The Results Of Disobedience v. 2
- The Reality We Must Face v. 3a
- The Revelation We Must Believe vv. 3b-4

The Reason For The Warning v. 1

• **1. The Position Of Jesus Christ v. 1a**

- **1. Therefore v. 1a**

Hebrews 2:1 (NKJV)

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

▪ **What do we say when we see - Therefore**

- What is it THEREFORE
 - *J. Vernon McGee to always say whenever you see a “therefore”, you need find out what it’s there for*

▪ **Now Remember**

- When the Bible was Written
 - There were no chapter and verse divisions
 - That was done later to help us out
- They probably put a chapter break here

- Because there's a sort of natural break with that word "therefore"

▪ **The word "Therefore"**

- Connects this passage in the immediate context to His Superiority
 - Over ALL the Prophets and Angels
- Therefore, in the light of that –
 - We must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard...

• **2. The Problem Of Neglect v. 1b**

- **1. We must give the more earnest heed v. 1b**

Hebrews 2:1 (NKJV)

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

▪ **More Earnest –**

- Greek: Perissoteros –
- Means: More abundantly; more in a greater degree; more earnestly, more exceedingly; especially, above others

▪ **Give ... heed –**

- Greek: Prosecho –
- Means: To bring to; to turn the mind to, be attentive
- The word was used as a nautical term

- To either hold a ship on course in a certain direction, or to bring a ship to land.

▪ **The writer doesn't want us to just "Give Heed"**

- But to give "The More Earnest Heed"
 - To really dial it up a notch
 - The readers would do well to pay more careful attention to these realities
 - AKA = You BEST be Paying Attention
- Therefore
 - Since the Prophets and Angels are Important –
 - Had a Role to play in bring the Law to Moses
 - And Jesus is BETTER in Every way
 - He Is Far above the Prophets and Angles –
 - We BEST Pay attention to What is being said here

• **SO GIVE It The MORE EARNEST HEED**

- **Make it at HOME in your HEART**

- **Don't Sail Past this TRUTH**

• **3. The Possibility Of Drifting Away v. 1c**

- **1. Lest we drift away v. 1c**

Hebrews 2:1 (NKJV)

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

- **Drift –**

- Greek: Pararrhúeo (“alongside” + “to flow”) –
- Means: To glide by; float by, drift past as a ship, flow past as a river.

- **Away**

- Greek: ***pararréō***
- *Means: By, past, beyond, to flow. To float by or drift past as a ship, or to flow past as a river. Figuratively to slip away, suggesting a gradual and almost unnoticed movement past a certain point. Of a person, to move stealthily as a thief. It is used figuratively of persons meaning to glide away, to swerve or deviate from something, such as the truth, law, precepts*

- **Lest we drift away:**

- If we do not give the more earnest heed,
 - There is a DANGER that we will drift away.
- In Order to STOP the DRIFTING
 - Be anchored to the TRUTH
 - The TRUTH in this text

- **2. Application – WARNING Ways We drift Away**

- **1. The Pressures The Jewish Believers Had**

- The Persecution
 - Open hostility of their Jewish countrymen who considered Christians to be heretics!

- The religious establishment had endorsed a policy of persecution for the followers of Christ
 - Anyone charged with being a disciple of Jesus was banned from the synagogue – which was the heart and soul of Jewish social life.
- Christians had lost their jobs
 - Some had lost their homes and families
 - Some had even been put to death!
 - Also Persecution from The Romans
 - Who considered the Christians a dangerous sect of political revolutionaries

▪ 2. The Pressures on US

- The Current of Familiarity
 - So many Churches
 - So Many Bible Studies
 - I heard that study before
 - How many times are we going sing that song...
 - Going through the Motions
- The Current of Daily Life
 - The Stress of the day
 - Work
 - Money

- Family time
- Appointments
- Hurry here Hurry there
- Always Busy never enough TIME
- The Current Of Living in a Fallen World
 - Living in a world that hostile to our faith
 - This hostility manifests itself in the hatred and opposition of non-believers.
 - The World is always pushing it's agenda on us
 - TV, Sports, Movies, Work Place, Etc...
 - Consistent Social Pressure
 - If you really believe the Bible – you're a strange person

▪ **3. Signs That You Are Started to Drift**

- 1. Neglecting Spiritual Discipline and Growth
 - Devotion To God
 - Not Praying and Reading God's Word like you should and have don't in the past
 - Less time spent in prayer and reading the Bible will weaken you
 - We must be in His Word
 - One sermon a week is not enough

- God MUST be number ONE on the LIST of ONE
- Missing Church
 - Not engaged in church
 - Not Attending Church like you should
 - Lack of Fellowship leads believers to isolation
- May be religious BUT the Fire has grown cold
 - May be doing a lot of things at church BUT
 - The Fire you once had for Jesus is growing colder or lukewarm
- 2. Allowing sin to take root
 - Unrepentant Sin
 - Tolerating or justifying sin will cause a gradual drift
 - It slowly pulls you away.
 - Guilt
 - Unconfessed sin can lead to guilt that makes you reluctant to stay engaged
- 3. Becoming spiritually discouraged
 - Discouragement
 - A sense of despair, perhaps following personal tragedy or a major life event, can lead to spiritual drift.
 - This can lead to feeling Depletion:

- Feeling emotionally or spiritually drained can make you vulnerable to drifting away.
- 4. Worldly distractions and false idols
 - Worldliness
 - Letting the idols of this world distract you and pull you down
 - NOTE an Idols:
 - Is ANYTHING that Comes before God
 - Spouse, Kids, friends, Work, Fitness, vacations
 - Remember, Even a God Thing...
 - Put your O2 mask on first...

The Results Of Disobedience v. 2

• 1. The Example Facing Us v. 2a

Hebrews 2:2 (NKJV)

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

- **1. For “IF”**
 - Now verse starts out “For IF”
 - In Greek “if and it is so”
 - “Since” –
 - What is said is true and reliable

- Since the word spoken through angels proved steadfast...

- **2. Word Study**

- **Proved –**

- Greek: Ginomai –
 - Means: to become, be made
 - This is the Law of Moses,
 - Given to Moses through the help of angels (Deut. 33:2).

- **Steadfast –**

- Greek: Bebaios (from basis, “a stepping”, “something you step on”) –
 - Means: Stable, firm; standing firm on your feet

- **3. The Law of Moses was solid stuff.**

- **We’re told “the word spoken through angels proved steadfast**

- Acts 7, Gal. 3 tells us that angels were involved in the communication of the Law

- **The point of Hebrews 2:2**

- What was given through angels proved to be totally reliable and brought the judgment of God for disobeying it
 - So if that’s true (and it is) that the nation of Israel disregarded what was given to them by the angels and judgment came upon them

- Then how dare someone to reject the message of the Jesus who is greater than the angels
- That's the argument that Paul is giving here and it's very powerful

• **2. The Extent To Which It Was Applied v. 2b**

Hebrews 2:2 (NKJV)

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

○ **1. Word Study**

▪ **Transgression –**

- Greek: Parabasis –
- Means: a going over, stepping over; metaph. a disregarding, violating; of the Mosaic Law; the breach of a definite, promulgated, ratified law

▪ **Disobedience –**

- Greek: Parakoe –
- Means: A hearing amiss; disobedience

▪ **Just –**

- Greek: Endikos –
- Means: according to right, righteous, just

▪ **Reward –**

- Greek: Misthapodosia –
- Means: Payment of wages due, reward for work

- **2. So every transgression and disobedience received a just reward**

- **Not a blessing...but a judgment**

- So the message of the angels was anyone who didn't listen to the Lord would be judged by Him

- **Example: That even applied to Moses himself**

- Remember when the people got thirsty, Moses struck the rock and water came out
- And we know from the NT that the Rock represented Jesus and the water the HS
- The second time this happened God told Moses to simply speak to the rock
- But when Moses got angry and frustrated he hit the rock twice and made them think God was angry when He wasn't
- And for that one act of disobedience the Lord said Moses couldn't go into the Promise Land
- You may think, "Wow, why was God so hard?"
 - He misrepresented the Lord and said, "must we bring you water"

- **Application**

- We MUST take God Seriously
 - Isn't it interesting how today, so many Christians don't take what God says seriously

- They just pick and choose what they want to obey and disobey

The Reality We Must Face v. 3a

• 1. How shall WE Escape if we neglect so great a salvation v. 3a

Hebrews 2:3 (NKJV)

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,

○ **1. The word “neglect”**

▪ **Neglect**

- Greek: ameléō
- Means: careless, without, to show concern, to care. Not to care for, to neglect
- Is used of those who rudely and willfully ignore a gracious invitation to Salvation
 - They will not escape – there is no salvation for them
- *The ancient Greek word translated neglect is amelesantes, also used in Matthew 22:5 of those who disregarded the invitation to the marriage supper (they made light of it). It means to have the opportunity, but to ignore or to disregard the opportunity.*

▪ **The argument moves from the lesser to the greater.**

- If those who Broke the Law were punished
 - What will be the fate of those who Neglect the Gospel?

○ **2. So GREAT a Salvation**

- **Briefly The Gospel**

- The Fact that God World Send His Son to Die in my Place
 - PTL

- **The salvation is great because it is Open to Everybody**

John 3:16 (NKJV)

16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Revelation 22:17 (NKJV)

17 And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.

- It doesn't exclude a single person!
 - Anyone, no matter how loaded with sin they are
 - No matter how guilty they are, they can come to Jesus Christ and will find forgiveness.
 - Illustration
 - Ted Bundy
 - At the time I remember people objecting to the fact that he could be saved
- **Christians don't neglect your Salvation**
 - Jesus gave everything for you
 - Never Forget What Jesus has Done
 - When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of glory died,

my richest gain I count but loss,
and pour contempt on all my pride.

- Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
save in the death of Christ, my God!
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them through his blood.
- See, from his head, his hands, his feet,
sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
or thorns compose so rich a crown?
- Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were a present far too small.
Love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.

The Revelation We Must Believe vv. 3-4

• 1. The Authority Of Jesus Christ v. 3b

Hebrews 2:3 (NKJV)

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,

○ 1. Jesus first taught about His authority over all

- Jesus shared the message that man could become right with God

Luke 19:10 (NKJV)

10 for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."

• 2. The Apostles Who Had Heard Him v. 3c

Hebrews 2:3 (NKJV)

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,

- **1. Confirmed to us by those who heard Him**

- Those who heard Jesus were the “Apostles”.
 - For this reason many don’t believe that Paul wrote this book

- **2. Was Confirmed**

- How do I know these Apostles who are teaching His message are reliable...but the signs that they did

- **3. The Authentication Of Their Message v. 4**

- **1. The Lord authenticating their message**

Hebrews 2:4 (NKJV)

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

- Look at

Acts 2:22 (NKJV)

22 “Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know—

Acts 2:43 (NKJV)

43 Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles.

- These signs confirmed their message
- We Already Have God’s Word
 - So We must have discernment in these last days
 - Satan will come lying wonders

- **4. The Activity Of The Holy Spirit v. 4**

Hebrews 2:4 (NKJV)

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

- **Gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will.”**
 - God does it...not man

Closing

- My Precious Brothers and Sisters
 - Life is Short – Live it For Jesus
 - Illustration
 - 2 – 85 year olds within 2 day told me it went by super fast...
 - Don't DRIFT AWAY or WASTE your life
 - It is meant to be lived for Jesus – NOT for yourself
 - Keep your focus on Jesus – priority number 1 out of 1
 - Illustration
 - Object Lesson
 - God
 - The Word
 - Prayer
 - Fellowship
 - Husband's Love - Lead
 - Wife's Respect – Submit
 - Men Lead Family Spiritually Family Devos
 - Serve God