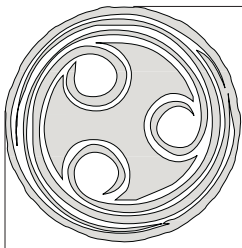


Warning #1 (Neglect) Hebrews 2:1-4

“Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.”
Hebrews 2:1



sermonnotes

Introduction

Since our passage starts with “Therefore,” we need to take a quick look back, where we clearly see that Jesus is the one who reveals (speaks for) God, and is not a created being, but the creator Himself. He was “*begotten*” in the sense of the title, “*Son of God*” being bestowed on Him “*today*,” referring to His resurrection (**Acts 13:33; Romans 1:4**). Like the Nicene Creed indicates, Jesus is “*begotten not made*.” He is not created since He is the creator, and the first born from the dead, highlighting His preeminence over everything; including the angels. Therefore, taking the whole of chapter one we are reminded that **since God speaks through His Son** (who is superior to anything else) “*We must pay much closer attention to what we have heard*.” This is the authors first turn to those that are on the fence and thinking about Christ, but not quite ready to commit to Him. This is where theology meets the practical; head meets the heart. We must *believe* (head) that Christ is truly God and worthy to be *worshipped* (heart) in such a way that demonstrates the reality of Christ in our lives. I believe that the writer--like a good preacher--is struck by the reality of the truth before him, so he is stopping to plead for people to respond. That’s what we have here, an appeal to respond to the person of Jesus Christ. This is not an appeal to convert to a religion, but an appeal to wed the savior of the world.

From The Head...

The Reality of the Warning (Hebrews 2:1)

Since Jesus is superior to angels, and the revelation of God to man, we should pay attention to Him and no one else. What should we hear more clearly? The word “*spoken to us in His Son*.” Verses 3-4 clarify this as the gospel (see **Mark 1:14-15**). We need to pay attention to God’s word and God’s plan, and stop being influenced by our culture, or as in the case of this context, the foreshadowing. The image here is of drifting, not a conscious falling away, but one that slowly takes its toll on your life spiritually. As in, “I think I loved Jesus, but I guess I didn’t?” It happens in marriages all the time. The author wants to deal with that, and in doing so includes himself when he uses the plural “we.” We, like Paul, must “*take heed unless we fall*.”

The Logic of the Warning (Hebrews 2:2-3a)

The second point is the author’s rationale for this warning. Here we have a play on words. In verse one we are warned not to “*drift away*,” which has the idea of an unanchored ship, while in verse two the author indicates that the word from the angels (which is the giving of the law; see **Acts 7:38, 53; Galatians 3:19**) proved “*unalterable*,” meaning steadfast, firm--literally “*of a secure anchor*.” Instead of being anchorless, be anchored to the words of Christ. Here the author is trying to convey the reality that the words of the angels (the law) were good and right (see **Romans 7**), and people were judged accordingly in the Old Testament by it. If that is true, then how much more should it be true of the fulfillment of the law in Christ (see **Matthew 5:17** cf. **Galatians 3:15-28**)? It is important to note here that the author isn’t building the case that the old word was inferior, but he is building a case that the old word was incomplete and devoid of the gospel that Jesus proclaims. His question, “*how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation?*” is pertinent, since the law brought condemnation and pointed to the reality and the need of the gospel (**Galatians 3:24**). And if we reject that, we reject our only source of salvation (**Acts 4:12; John 14:6**).

The Reason for the Warning (Hebrews 2:3b-4)

The reason therefore is clear; there is salvation in no other name! Here we see that these believers are a generation removed from the experience of seeing Jesus personally. They heard the message like we hear the message and either believe it or reject it (see **Acts 17:32-34**). The message had witnesses

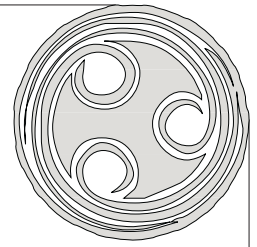
23 OCT. 2005 PASTOR MIKE GUNN

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which begin with the life and testimony of the Lord, the life and testimony of those that knew the Lord, and finally God Himself, who testified with miracles and the giving of the Holy Spirit (see **John 10:37-38**; **1 John 1:1-3**).

The gospel is sometimes not what we think. How often are we distracted by our own ideas and cultural constructs of the gospel and have failed to fall in love with our savior? How often have we sat in church, gone through the motions, and not desired to do God's will? How easy is it to believe without really understanding what it is we believe in? If we are to take these warnings seriously, we need to spend some time alone with the Lord asking these type of tough questions and evaluating our hearts before our Lord. We too haven't "seen" Christ, but like these people, and the author's logic, we have seen Christ work or we haven't. Is He a reality in our lives? Have we "drifted" away into cultural oblivion, which often times doesn't end up in atheism, but is often more damaging as it wallows in religiosity and apathy. As Screwtape counseled Wormwood, the best way to get the believer's gaze away from the "enemy" was to, "*Turn their gaze away from Him towards themselves.*" C.S. Lewis *Screwtape Letters*, pg. 29 The best way to drift into spiritual oblivion is to become distracted by the philosophy of those on death row rather than listening to the words of life, which bring forth truth and set you free!

sermonnotes



... To The Heart

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