

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

JANUARY 25TH-26TH, 2025 // HEBREWS

NEGLIGENCE (HEBREWS 2:1-4) HEARING BUT NOT APPLYING

Some recipients of Hebrews were leaving the faith because of persecution or the allure of other religions, and this horrified the author.

- Hebrews reminds the reader that spiritual life and death are at stake, and that we need to **“pay attention...to what we have heard” and apply it to our lives.**

THE LAW IS CLEAR AND ABSOLUTE

This letter reminded them that angels had delivered the law to the authors of the OT (Galatians 3:19). In those days, breaking the law was punishable by death (Numbers 15:30).

- In the NT covenant **we actually face a worse fate, spiritual death, if we reject/neglect the Word of God.**

A REMINDER THAT GOD CAME TO EARTH (V. 3)

God came to earth in Jesus, and spoke the Word directly to His disciples, but the author of Hebrews was a second generation convert.

- The point was they were close to stumbling in their faith, and they needed a reminder that God has come to earth and freely offered us salvation.

HOW COULD WE REJECT SUCH A GIFT?

Not only did Jesus fulfill over 44 blatant OT prophecies, but He displayed signs and miracles, and distributed gifts to verify His intentions.

- Many claim miracles, signs, and gifts no longer exist, but **maybe the problem is our reception (distractions, lackluster prayer lives, fragile faith) not His frequencies.**

“GIFTS... ACCORDING TO HIS WILL”

Acts 2 fulfilled Joel 2:28 about God pouring His Spirit onto His followers. This empowerment further showed the superiority of the gospel.

- Many misunderstand, abuse, neglect, or fear these tools (1 Corinthians 12-14). **We're to be biblically educated on what the Gifts are and know God gives them as He sees fit.**

THE CENTER (HEBREWS 2:5-9)

GREATER THAN HUMANS AND ANGELS?

Ch. 1 shows Christ is greater than prophets and angels, but many in this area only knew Jesus as a man who died a criminal's death. So, how is he better than humans and angels?

- Jesus is in control over the “world to come” which may refer to time after the cross, the afterlife, or both.

THE END HAS BEEN SET IN MOTION

The crucifixion of Jesus began the last phase of human history, but it will not come to completion until He returns for His people.

- This last phase was ushered in by Jesus becoming “lower than the angels for a short time.” In essence, God came to earth to clarify His message.

THE “SON OF MAN”?

Jesus Himself used this title (John 1:51). Son of Man refers to the flesh side of Jesus while on earth. Jesus was fully human and fully God, making perfection in human form possible.

- **Jesus came down to take the sin, shame, and humiliation of mankind, but to do this He had to suffer as a human.**

WHAT WE LOST, HE REGAINED

Humanity brought sin into the world, and **what we lost because of sin, Jesus has regained by His obedience to the Father through His ministry and the cross.**

- The completion of this is still in the future, but everything being “subjected to Him” is inevitable.

V. 9 GIVES THREE PROFOUND STATEMENTS

1) **Jesus was made lower than His own creations, the angels.** 2) **As a man He experienced suffering and death.** The Son offered to “taste death for everyone[s]” benefit and the Father permitted it. 3) **The outcome of His suffering was that He was crowned with “glory and honor” forever.**

HEAVEN TO EARTH (HEBREWS 2:10-15)

A HARD THING TO UNDERSTAND

The crucifixion was a horrible idea to these readers, but like them, we need to trust this was God's perfect design. Whatever God does is fitting, and Jesus' death was no exception.

- **A heavy debt had accrued and the cross brought “many sons...to glory,” meaning we can be adopted into God's family.**

THE CROSS ALSO RECONCILES US TO GOD

We not only have the opportunity to be adopted by God, but to also have a relationship with Him and experience His glory (2 Corinthians 4:17).

- The glory of God is His beauty, not aesthetically, but what emanates from His character. God is a consuming fire—His glory is the smoke.

JESUS BECAME PERFECT?

Jesus has always been perfect, but through the cross He became the perfect Savior and Atonement (payment) for humanity.

- He became perfect in that He had sympathy through shared experiences and obedience to the Father. **Jesus never asks us to do things He hasn't done.**

SANCTIFICATION (V. 11)

Jesus sets us apart for His purposes and refines us (Psalm 66; 1 Peter 1:7) into holiness (being more like Him). He can do this because of His close connection to us.

- **When we give our lives to Jesus, we're given His Spirit and the opportunity to overflow with it, making us one with Him.**

BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF JESUS? (V. 12)

Psalm 22 prophesied the triumph of the cross, but begins with its agony: “My God, why have you forsaken Me?” This shows Jesus suffered for us so we can be His “brothers and sisters.”

- **We must be careful. We are always subordinates to Jesus, but that's what makes this even more amazing!**

AND HIS CHILDREN

V. 13 quotes Isaiah 8:17-18. The first quote shows **the attitude of Jesus as He trusted the Father.** The second quote was the author comparing Isaiah's recognition of children being a miracle to Jesus' love for His children.

- Like children are a gift, **Jesus views us as a precious gift to love and nurture.**

OUR SHARED EXPERIENCES (V. 14)

Jesus took on flesh and blood, therefore sharing a commonality with humanity.

- Many early Christians argued whether Jesus was human, divine, or both? **Jesus is called the “God-Man,” meaning 100% God and human. Only someone who could be both could meet our needs.**

ANOTHER REASON HE HAD TO DIE

Not only did He die for fallen humanity, but also to “destroy the one holding the power of death—that is, the Devil.”

- **Sin caused death (Romans 5:12), and our sin caused Jesus to have to die.** His death swept away our sin and guilt if we choose to follow Him.

JESUS HAS ALREADY WON

Christ has already won (Colossians 2:15), but we live in an interim period where we don't see the full effects of the resurrection.

- **Satan is still walking around “like a roaring lion”** (1 Peter 5:8) but has **limited power** (Ephesians 6:11; 1 Timothy 3:7) and **his fate is certain** (Revelation 20:10).

HOW DID SATAN HAVE “POWER OF DEATH”?

God controls all issues of life, death, and eternity (Luke 12:5), but since Satan introduced death through the temptation of Adam and Eve, he has the “power of death” via sin.

- Though death is not destroyed yet, **we have been delivered from the fear of death through the cross** (1 Corinthians 15).

FOR US (HEBREWS 2:16-18)

AS A HUMAN TO AID HUMANS

“He does not reach out to help angels, but...Abraham's offspring” is a reference to Jesus becoming human to deliver all who want to be “Abraham's offspring [followers]” (Galatians 3:29).

- **Jesus came down to our level and still does today through His Spirit. Christ goes to extreme lengths for humanity.**

TWO REASONS JESUS HAD TO BECOME HUMAN

1) He had to become “like His brothers” and as a “faithful high Priest” to **serve God and sympathize with mankind.** 2) He had to **become the atonement for our sins.**

- Jesus did in totality what the OT rituals could only do in part. Jesus was the payment because of His great love (Romans 5:8).

HE IS ABLE AND WILLING (V. 18)

Jesus understands temptation and struggles because He had them too, but He was perfect and never caved in to them.

- **Jesus suffered** physically, emotionally, and spiritually and **was tempted** to end His mission, **but He endured so we can be saved and aided** in times of trouble.

ACKNOWLEDGING WE NEED HELP

- Humility is the key by which salvation, spiritual growth, and freedom are possible.
- If we are ever going to mature, become wise, or overcome sin, temptation, struggles, anxiety/fear, etc., **we must be humble and admit we cannot fix ourselves as a people or as individuals.**

KNOWING WE HAVE A WILLING HELPER

- We have a loving, able, and willing God Who has sent His Word, Son, and Spirit to help us in this life and ensure that we make it to a perfect afterlife.
- **Jesus became flesh to share in our experiences, to build a closer connection to us, and to pay the price for our sins!**

PAY ATTENTION TO WHAT WE'VE HEARD...

- We must pay attention to two things: First, we must remember **life is precious, so we must take an inventory of how we are living** (1 Timothy 4:16). Second, we must **pay attention to the truth we have heard and how/if we are responding to it. If we don't, we will “drift away” from the truth.**

... AND APPLY IT TO OUR DAILY LIVES

- If we will **be humble, know that we have a loving Savior who wants to walk with us, pay attention to how we live and to the wisdom and knowledge of the Word, and apply the principles/teachings of the Word to our lives, He will help us in times of fear, temptation, stress, tragedy, and confusion.**