

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

JANUARY 25TH–26TH, 2025 // HEBREWS

WE MUST PAY ATTENTION (HEBREWS 2:1–4) “FOR THIS REASON [THEREFORE]...” (V. 1)

Chapter 1 discussed the superior nature of Christ as God's revelation to us in these last days.

- Because God has spoken to us so clearly through the life, ministry, teaching, death, and resurrection of Jesus, we must pay attention all the more to what we have heard!
- It's not enough to just hear facts about Jesus—we prove we're listening through obedience.

“...SO THAT WE WILL NOT DRIFT AWAY.” (V. 1B)

What does the writer mean by “drift away”?

- A warning against apostasy: walking away from and abandoning the Christian faith.
- A warning against not actually receiving salvation from God because of neglecting to make a personal commitment to Christ.
- A warning against losing rewards and fellowship with God due to neglect and apathy.

No matter what is meant by “drifting away,” the point is that drift happens because of neglect, apathy, and a failure to pay attention to what God has spoken.

- We drift when we abandon spiritual disciplines like prayer, scripture reading, church attendance, and being in Christian community.
- We drift when we let the currents of worldliness and compromise draw us away from Christ.

God's law that was given to Moses was believed to have been delivered to him by angels (Deut. 33:2; Acts 7:53; Gal. 3:19).

- The Law of God delivered through angels was “legally binding”—God required His people to take it seriously. Every transgression and act of disobedience against God's law received a just punishment.
- God expected His people to listen to His Word.

So if God expected His people to pay close attention and obey the law that was delivered by angels, how much more does God expect His people to listen and obey what He's spoken through His own son Jesus?

- If we hear God's message through Jesus and neglect it—how much more condemnation and judgment will come?
- “From everyone who has been given much, much will be required...” (Lk. 12:48).

This “great salvation” wasn't just proclaimed by angels, it was inaugurated by God Himself when spoken of by the Lord Jesus (v. 3a).

- It was confirmed to us by credible eyewitnesses—virtually all scholars (even secular) acknowledge that Jesus of Nazareth existed, and the gospel accounts we have are historically reliable.
- If Jesus didn't actually rise from the dead...we've got some explaining to do. What happened?

Not only was this “great salvation” proclaimed by Jesus and confirmed by eyewitnesses, the testimony of the Holy Spirit's work in the church confirms that it is true (v. 4).

- One of the most powerful apologetics in the 1st century for the validity of the Christian gospel was the powerful signs, wonders, miracles, and works of the Holy Spirit that were commonplace in the church.

The Holy Spirit is alive and active today—His work in the life of the Believer and in the church confirms the testimony of this great salvation.

- The Holy Spirit is God's personal presence in our lives whomables, motivates, empowers, and equips us with spiritual gifts to edify the Church and glorify Jesus (1 Cor. 14:3–5; Eph. 4:11–12). If we have experienced God's power through the Holy Spirit, it's hard to deny it!

God has gone to great lengths to speak to us through Jesus—and if we neglect to follow and obey Jesus and drift away from Him, there will be consequences.

- Pay attention, listen, and obey!
- Don't let apathy, negligence, spiritual laziness, distraction, worldliness or complacency pull you away from following and obeying Jesus.

JESUS' HUMANITY (HEBREWS 2:5–9)

God always intended for His son, the Messiah, to be superior to the angels, even the angels through whom the Jewish law was given.

- God never promised the angels dominion over the created order—that was a responsibility God gave to humanity (Gen. 1:26–30).
- Angels don't have dominion over this world or the world to come, instead God gives this role to human beings (v. 5).

“WHAT IS MAN THAT YOU REMEMBER HIM”? (VS. 6–8A)

This is a quotation from Ps. 8:4–6 that shows both the smallness of man in relation to God, and the dominion God gave to man, even though man is lower than the angels.

- The term “son of man” is an interesting title—it is used 103 times in the O.T. and can refer to humanity's frailty, but it also is used in Daniel to refer to a future, divine Messianic ruler.

CHAPTER 1 SHOWS US THE DEITY OF JESUS—THAT HE IS FULLY DIVINE AND SUPERIOR TO ANGELS.

Now we see the humanity of Jesus—that He is fully human.

- It's not that Jesus is 50% God & 50% human. The mystery of the incarnation is that He is fully God and fully man.
- A human nature was added to His divine nature, and both natures exist in one Person.

The point is this: Jesus, by becoming human and experiencing suffering and death, willingly made Himself “lower than the angels” to ultimately be exalted and have all creation subjected to Him.

- God's original plan was for humans to rule over creation, but because of sin, creation is not under our control and we don't fully exercise that rule right now.
- To fix this, Jesus became a human being.

Jesus suffered and died as fully human, and through His death and resurrection He restored what humans lost and opened the way for humanity to fulfill its purpose again.

- Because Jesus willingly suffered and died, He is now crowned with glory and honor (v. 9).
- Christ's victory over sin and death makes Him the perfect Savior and ruler worth following!

MERCIFUL AND FAITHFUL HEBREWS 2:10–18 JESUS AS OUR PIONEER (V. 10)

The term “archegos” is used to refer to someone as the leader, originator, captain, or pioneer; someone who leads the way.

- Jesus led the way to secure our salvation through the wilderness of suffering, pain, sin, and death.
- In bringing many sons and daughters to glory, it was appropriate for God to “make Him perfect through sufferings.”

JESUS NEEDED TO BE MADE PERFECT?

There was nothing *imperfect* or lacking in Jesus. To “make perfect” carries with it the meaning of qualifying Jesus as the author of our salvation by having Him experience real human suffering.

- Until He became a man and suffered, God never experienced suffering as we do.
- Jesus felt pain, hunger, fatigue, stress, and discomfort just like every other human.

JESUS AS OUR BIG BROTHER (VS. 11–13)

In sharing the same humanity as those He saves, Jesus makes us His brothers and sisters.

- He, as the one who sanctifies us, gives us the right to become a part of His family.
- Ps. 22:22 and Is. 8:17–18 are quoted as proof that the Messiah would be willing to associate with humans as His brethren.
- Good big brothers teach, lead, protect, and give us an example as they go before us.

JESUS AS OUR LIBERATOR (VS. 14–15)

Satan took the lead in introducing sin into the world (which caused death).

- By becoming human and experiencing death, Jesus destroyed the devil's power over death.
- Through His death which paid the full penalty for sin, Jesus liberated people from the fear of death, which enslaved humanity.
- We don't have to fear death any longer!

JESUS AS THE SAVIOR OF HUMANITY, NOT ANGELS (VS. 16–17)

When Jesus became a human being, He was able to provide salvation for human beings.

- Jesus wasn't an angelic deliverer—His death as a human was for humans so that He could become a merciful and faithful high priest for us as well.
- Through the sacrifice of His own blood, Jesus made atonement for the sins of the people.

JESUS AS OUR FAITHFUL HIGH PRIEST (V. 17B)

In ancient Judaism, the high priest would function as the mediator between God and the people of Israel.

- Once a year, the high priest would enter the inner sanctuary of the temple on Yom Kippur to offer the blood of a sacrificial animal to atone for the sins of the people of Israel.
- Jesus functioned in this role for us!

JESUS AS OUR HELPER (V. 18)

This chapter ends with a powerful insight related to the doctrine of Jesus' humanity.

- Since Jesus was fully human, He suffered just as we suffer in this life: physically, emotionally, and spiritually.
- Since Jesus was fully human, He was tempted just as we are tempted in this life, yet He never gave into that temptation and sinned.

Jesus is able to help us in our temptation, trials, weakness, and suffering.

- Why? Because He has faced and overcome everything difficult we will ever face in this life.
- He understands the struggles and pressures of temptation firsthand.
- He understands the pain and sorrow of suffering, and He stands ready to help us every day.

WHAT HAS JESUS DONE FOR YOU?

- He became lower than angels, experienced all the pain and hardship of humanity, and died a real physical death for you.
- He has brought you into God's family and called you brother or sister.
- He has made atonement for your sins through His own blood and liberated you from the slavery of the fear of death.

PAYING ATTENTION TO SUCH GREAT SALVATION.

- Have you responded to and are you paying attention to such great salvation that Jesus has offered you?
- Are you moving forward in faith, obedience, worship, and knowledge of Christ as you follow Him?
- When the current is strong, all you must do to drift is nothing. Are you drifting away from Him?

GOD NEVER INTENDS FOR US TO DO IT ALONE.

- “Life is pain, highness. Anyone who says differently is selling something.” – The Dread Pirate Roberts
- Whether we like it or not, life is full of pain, difficulty, hardship, and suffering.
- The Christian life of faith is even harder, and we will face great temptation to give up.
- But God never designed or intended for us to do it alone! Jesus stands ready to give us help.

WHAT HELP DO YOU NEED FROM GOD TODAY?

- Jesus knows pain, loss, suffering, loneliness, and sorrow. He is a compassionate, merciful, and relatable helper in our time of need.
- If you are suffering, Jesus can give you His peace, love, and presence.
- If you are facing temptation, Jesus can give you His strength, guidance, and truth to overcome.
- Romans 8:32 (ESV)