

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

JANUARY 26TH, 2025 // HEBREWS

NOT DRIFTING AWAY (HEBREWS 2:1-4) AN EXHORTATION FOR BELIEVERS

The superiority of Christ has many life-changing implications for us, remembering this letter was not written to unbelievers but Believers.

- The words to “**pay attention all the more to what we have heard**” have been softened in the CSB from the KJV, which says “**we must give the more earnest heed,**” giving not just the idea of hearing but **doing what we hear.**

“FOR THIS REASON...”

We are told that if we are not listening and applying the words of Christ we will eventually “**drift away**” because drifting naturally happens without being anchored to something solid.

- If we are not securely anchored to the superiority of Christ, **we will “drift away” by the currents of the world, the desires of the flesh, and the lies of the enemy.**

SERIOUSNESS OF THE LAW

It was understood that the OT Law (Mosaic Law) was given to Moses by the hands of angels (Deuteronomy 33:2; Galatians 3:19; Acts 7:53).

- Moses was merely the mediator in the heavenly tenets received from God through angels. So the commands given must be taken seriously since “**every transgression and disobedience received a just punishment.**”

A RHETORICAL QUESTION

V. 3 asks, “How will we escape [the punishment under Mosaic Law] if we neglect [salvation offered through Jesus]?” To neglect (showing we do not value it) salvation keeps us under the penalty of the Law (Romans 10:4; 2:12-15; 3:12).

- **We should never make light of our salvation that has been offered to us by a great Savior at great cost, saving us from a great penalty.**
- Galatians 2:16

“CONFIRMED BY THOSE WHO HEARD HIM”

Salvation through Jesus was confirmed by those who **heard firsthand** what He spoke and were **eyewitnesses to the signs, wonders, miracles and gifts from the Holy Spirit.**

- The early followers would not have been martyred for a lie, nor would it have been allowed to continue past the first generation (1 Corinthians 15:6).

A PROBLEM AND ITS SOLUTION (HEBREWS 2:5-9)

“SOMEONE SOMEWHERE HAS TESTIFIED...”

Vs. 6-8a are taken from Psalm 8:4-6. The question posed by the psalmist and repeated here in Hebrews, “**What is man that you [God] remember him...?**” was never intended to evoke a self-deprecating view of ourselves.

- The heart behind this passage is **not about putting us down but instead lifting Him up so high above us.**

“MADE LOWER THAN THE ANGELS”

This passage indicated that we (“man”) and Jesus (“son of man”) share in **being made lower than angels for a short time.**

- In the first chapter the author wanted us to see Jesus’ deity and now shows His humanity. **Jesus added human nature to His divine nature and for “a short time” perfectly endured the frailty of the flesh.**

A PROMISE OF DOMINION TO HUMANITY

We see in Gen. 1:26-30, the promise of dominion over the Earth. But because of sin we do not have the original dominion given to us (“we do not yet see everything subjected to him” (humanity)).

- “But we do see Jesus...” means **the promise of dominion is fulfilled in Christ who has all dominion over all things given to Him.**

THREE STATEMENTS ABOUT JESUS (V. 9)

- Jesus took on flesh, becoming a human being, and was “**made lower than the angels.**”
- As a man, Jesus experienced suffering and death. **Jesus tasted death for everyone** in such a beautiful display of God’s grace.
- The result of His suffering and death is victory! As the victor, He is “**crowned with glory and honor.**”

A COMPASSIONATE PRIEST (HEBREWS 2:10-18)

EVERYTHING GOD DOES IS NECESSARY.

It was more than necessary that the “pioneer of [our] salvation” take on flesh to save us. It is man who sinned, and it is man who must suffer and pay the penalty for sin.

- It was through Jesus becoming a man that our suffering and punishment could be laid upon Him (Isaiah 53:5). He took what we deserve and gives us what we do not.

THIS IS HOW WE KNOW LOVE

Jesus was obedient to the Father and no one took His life from Him, but He willingly laid it down (1 John 3:16). Jesus’ display of love is the ultimate illustration that **real love and giving are sacrificial.**

- David, a man after God’s heart, displayed real love for God and said, “I will not offer to the Lord my God burnt offerings that cost me nothing” (2 Samuel 24:24).

JESUS IS OUR PIONEER AND CAPTAIN

Jesus is our pioneer because he **paves the way** for us. He leads the way to salvation and there is no other path than the one paved by Jesus (John 14:6).

- Jesus is the captain, and He **gives commands to the troops.**
- Jesus leads the way, **encouraging His men,** and is **an example to those who follow.**

“...THE LORD WAS PLEASED...” (ISAIAH 53:10)

When the author says that **Jesus was made perfect through sufferings**, this is not meant to claim that Jesus was in any way imperfect.

- There was never anything lacking in Jesus, but through the human experience of heartache, pain, and suffering, He was made the perfect leader **to bring many sons and daughters to glory.**

HE CALLS US BROTHERN

V. 11 says that “**the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father,**” and the author takes quotes from Psalm 22:22 to show how Jesus calls His people brethren and worships the Father with us.

- The idea of us being “sanctified” by Jesus means that He is at work in us, preparing us for the work that has been given to us.

“DESTROY THE ONE HOLDING THE POWER OF DEATH”

Vs. 14-15 show that by fully taking on flesh, Jesus’ death on the cross gave victory over the devil to those “**who were held in slavery all their lives by the fear of death.**”

- Satan has the “**power of death**” since he is the one who introduced sin leading death. But his defeat means he has been defeated and the sting of death removed (1 Corinthians 15:55-57).

OUR HIGH PRIEST

Jesus “**had to be like his brothers and sisters in every way,**” except in sinning, so He could be our High Priest.

- Jesus, our High Priest, is representing us to the Father—interceding for us as someone who understands the human condition. The sacrifice He offered was Himself, atoning (“to cover”) for our sins.

JESUS SUFFERED WHEN TEMPTED

Jesus endured the pain and discomfort longer than any of us. He resisted and He endured until the very end. Jesus never gave in to temptation and He never sinned.

- And now, our Savior encourages us and leads us to victory over temptation because He, better than anyone, knows what we are going through.

THE EXAMPLE OF OUR HIGH PRIEST

- Jesus’ reaction to temptation gives us an example of how we are to face temptation.
- With each temptation Jesus faced (Matthew 4:3-10), which were all common to man (1 Corinthians 10:13), Jesus replied with Scripture.
- We must have the “**sword of the Spirit**” (**the Word of God**) ready and have trained (**reading, studying, and applying**) with it!

THE ASSISTANCE OF OUR HIGH PRIEST

- No one is given a pass when it comes to temptation, but Christ provides the needed assistance in temptation.
- He will provide the strength needed to endure the temptation.
- He will provide the way out (1 Corinthians 10:13).
- We must **rely on Him for strength and be looking for the way out!**