

Jesus is a Better Savior - Hebrews 2:1-4
Notes, Family Worship, Bible Reading

Notes from the Sermon

John Piper has said, "The life of this world is not a lake. It is a river. And it is flowing downward to destruction. If you do not listen earnestly to Jesus, consider him daily, and fix your eyes on him hourly, you will not stand still; you will go backward. You will float away from Christ." Catch what he is saying, to stay still is to drift because the current of this world, this culture is always pulling us in a direction downstream, away from grace and intimacy with Jesus. Very few people just wake up one morning and declare, "I don't believe anymore, I'm out." Nope, the vast majority who have left the faith or who find themselves far away from Jesus got there on a journey of a myriad of little decisions and inactions. The danger of drift is significant for those who follow Jesus, we must be aware. The path to Jesus is always paddling upstream intentionally.

Our text this week is the first of five clear warning passages which serve as the key application for the book of Hebrews. I've mentioned a couple times already (and will keep sharing this) that Hebrews is likely a sermon that was recorded and sent out as a letter. Therefore, it was read to the church in a corporate gathering as a sermon. In the sermon the preacher of Hebrews will build clear streams of theological and Biblical argument showing the numerous ways Jesus is better than the Old Covenant and the Jewish religious system. He then will pause in the midst of these arguments to warn the hearers not to reject Jesus, walk away from the faith, or seek to soften the message of the Gospel to appease the culture. Before our passage for this week the author began with a huge claim about God revealing Himself and a declaration that Jesus was the pinnacle of God's divine revelation, because Jesus is God come to us as a person. He then builds a biblical argument about Jesus' superiority to angels, who serve as God's messengers. Our text this morning then is one of those pauses in argument with a clear charge to pay closer attention to the Gospel message because we cannot escape the judgment of God if we neglect this great salvation.

Notice then the words "pay closer attention" in verse 1 and "neglect" in verse 3. Neglecting our salvation is merely the act of failing to pay attention, keep our focus on the Gospel. In other words, the warning is not about willful rejection of Jesus, or falling in to some disastrous sin. The warning is for people whose focus has shifted away from Jesus and the Gospel and in doing this they begin neglecting the great salvation provided in Jesus. As a result, spiritual drift is already happening. In fact, the language in verse 1 is pulled from common maritime language, speaking of a ship seeking to move into harbor to dock. The current and wind are blowing, and a single moment of failure to focus on the destination as the ship is pushed by the wind and surf will result in drift that can end up with the ship destroyed on a reef, rocks, or the beach. The author then goes on to remind these hearers of the message of angels in the Old Testament and the judgment that fell on those who ignored the message. Most likely this is a reference to the idea that angels were the vehicles God used to bring the Law and the 10 Commandments to Moses. Over and over again in the story the nation drifts from the message and God judges individuals and Israel as a collective over and over again. Yet these judgments always came with a promise of ultimate redemption.

So now we have Jesus, better than angels who brought us the message of the Gospel. This amazing good news is worthy of our lives, but it is so easy to drift from this great salvation. The current is strong, drifting is always a danger. And in so many ways.

But the solution in this text is clear, we pay closer attention to what we have heard. What is the message we have heard? The message of our great salvation, the Gospel of Jesus. I believe the application of this text is fairly clear. As the lyric of *Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing* reminds us, I am, "Prone to wander, Lord I feel it. Prone to leave the God I love." So I need to recognize the danger and always ask myself if and how I m drifting away from Jesus, from the Gospel. The response is repentance and a renewed focus on Jesus coupled with a greater joy and thankfulness for the blessing of salvation.

Bible Reading for the Week

Daily Bible Readings

Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat
Hosea 12	Hosea 13	Hosea 14	Amos 1	Amos 2	Amos 3	Amos 4

Reading from this past week: Hebrews 2:1-4

Reading in preparation for this coming Sunday: Hebrews 2:5-18

Family Worship

Song - *Only a Holy God*

<https://youtu.be/8FOuQ-u9w5g?feature=shared>

Gospel Project

Unit: God Made a Promise

Story: Abraham Followed God

Big Picture Question: Does God keep His promises?

Answer: Yes, God always keeps His promises because He is faithful.

Scripture: Genesis 11-13

New City Catechism

Question 41: What is the Lord’s Prayer

Answer: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread. And

forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not

into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Verse: Matthew 6:9

Scripture

Hebrews 2:1-4

- The author tells us to pay much closer attention to what we have heard. What is the message they had heard and to which they are to pay closer attention?
- Why is spiritual drift such a danger for people seeking to live the Christian life?
- How are you prone to wander and drift? What ways does your enemy capture your attention and pull your gaze away from Jesus?
- What are some ways we can respond to this warning from the author/preacher of Hebrews?

Prayer

*Pray for our Gospel Class and for those who are new to Genesis as they become part of our church.

*Pray that we would not drift away from Jesus and recognize when we do. .