

The Danger of Disregarding Salvation

Text: Hebrews 2:1-4

Date: 10-22-23

1. A challenge and warning based on great truth (Heb. 2:1).

“How are you going to respond to what you just heard?” What are you going to do with Jesus?

Based on the grandness of the Person of Jesus Christ, a person is foolish to reject the deliverance and salvation that He offers.

You and I have every responsibility to give careful attention to the truths contained in God’s Word. We cannot hear these things and then forget about them. That is equivalent to spiritual suicide. We must allow these things to take hold in our lives. God’s Word will have little to no benefit in our lives if we don’t study it, live it, heed it, and obey it.

While the challenge is for believers, the warning is just as applicable to unbelievers who are in need of genuine “repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ” (Acts 20:21).

Explanation/should let slip: The word (Greek: *pararreo*) means *to drift away, be washed away* and carries a serious warning to not allow ourselves to drift away from the very things that must be heeded.

This is not talking about loss of salvation. This is talking about drifting into a life of complacency and apathy.

Satan doesn’t need us to oppose God’s Word to become ineffective; he desires we drift a little at a time, sow seeds of doubt, and live spiritually neutral lives.

2. The old message had an important place (Heb. 2:2)

In typical fashion of this book, the writer of Hebrews is laying out a case and proving a point. This time he is using the certainty of the old covenant and its laws and consequences and contrasting it to the new covenant and salvation provided through the life, death, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus, whom he has just spent time proving to be of utmost superiority.

The angel’s spoken message was steadfast.

In light of this book, the message no doubt refers to the old covenant or the Mosaic Law, and the angels were instrumental in conveying this message to the Israelites.

Whatever the angels said was validated to be true. Their words were absolute and certain.

The Mosaic Law contained the specific ways that God wanted His people to live and worship Him and clear consequences for breaking it.

So the point is that the old system, the Mosaic Law, was sure, binding, reliable, God-ordained, and it had a purpose and there were severe consequences for neglecting it. But a new, greater Law was being given now, one that was founded on the truths taught by Jesus Christ and gained by His death on the cross. This new law brought eternal salvation. Just as the old law could not be neglected, this new “law” of *so great salvation* must not be neglected because it is far greater than the old law.

3. The present salvation is most important (Heb. 2:3)

A. Salvation cannot and should not be escaped

If an OT Jew would never neglect the Law out of fear of the consequences for breaking the Law, why would they even consider neglecting the salvation brought by the Son? With the clear picture that the new is better than the old, it is obvious that there is more light with more truth. The law only was a shadow and type of the real thing/Person. With the OT law, God's revelation was incomplete. Now, the people had God's Son, revealed to mankind, bringing a completion to His revelation.

We cannot escape from God. For the believer we cannot neglect our salvation because our spiritual growth, fervor, and life are attached to it. We won't lose our salvation if we neglect it, but we will not grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ if we ignore it.

For the unbeliever, neglecting salvation is equivalent to rejecting Christ.

B. Salvation is So Great

Why is salvation so great?

- The author already took chapter one and he will continue throughout the book to emphasize the greatness of the Savior (Heb. 1:1-3).
- The cost of salvation (I Pet 1:19)
- The extent of salvation (John 3:16)
- The love behind salvation (II Cor. 5:14-15)
- The grace that brought salvation (Eph. 2:8-10)
- The life brought by salvation (I John 5:11-13)

4. Proofs of the message's importance (Heb. 2:3b-4)

The first reason is that Jesus spoke it Himself. He was greater than angels so with His name and word attached it elevated the gospel message above anything spoken earlier, including the OT law or covenant spoken by the angels.

The second reason is that the gospel was confirmed by the eyewitnesses.

These eyewitnesses were with Jesus Christ and the apostles specifically wrote for the world to know through His Word. I Cor. 15:6-8; II Pet. 1:16; I John 1:1-2.

Jesus Christ then confirmed through His death and resurrection that He was the fulfillment of OT prophecy (Luke 4:18-21).

The third reason is that Jesus authenticated the gospel message as He performed signs and wonders during His earthly ministry, and that power was extended to the apostles after His death, resurrection and ascension, confirming the truth of the salvation message.