



Hebrews 2:1-4

Appropriate Responses to the Superiority of the Lord Jesus

Guard against a wandering focus (2:1)

¹ Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it.

- ❖ *“Therefore”* – As a result of the presentations of the superiority of Jesus Christ, particularly to angels, given in chapter 1
- ❖ *“we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard”*
 - ❖ The word and work of Christ is not a one-and-done encounter
 - ❖ The inspired writer of Hebrews does not see salvation in the rearview mirror
 - ❖ The inspired writings of Paul confirm the same point
 - ❖ 1 Corinthians 15:1–2

Guard against a wandering focus (2:1)

- ❖ Faith in the work and word of Jesus continues in focus and fruitfulness throughout a believer's life
 - ❖ Colossians 1:21–23
- ❖ Dependence on, and devotion to, our Lord Jesus Christ is to be a priority focus all our days on His earth
 - ❖ The sheep of His flock don't live in fear but in constant dependence
 - ❖ Disinterest in the lifeline of Jesus Christ reveals a dangerous wandering heart
 - ❖ John 10:27
- ❖ Hearing and following are not just an initial experience

Guard against a wandering focus (2:1)

“lest we drift away from it”

- ❖ The idea of drifting away describes ever so subtle and gradual movements away from wholehearted Christ-centeredness
- ❖ Apostasy rarely happens as a single and determinative act of defiance
- ❖ Devotion shrinks because of compounding distractions
 - ❖ Busyness is a distraction
 - ❖ Friends and fellowship disconnected from Jesus becomes a distraction
 - ❖ Comparative condemnation is a distraction
 - ❖ Self-centered insecurity is a distraction
 - ❖ Worry about provision is a distraction
 - ❖ Fear of danger and hostility is a distraction

Guard against a wandering focus (2:1)

- ❖ Slow and subtle movements from the faith are genuine threats
- ❖ A persistent and intentional focus assessment is necessary to avoid apostasy
- ❖ Not all who profess actually possess
 - ❖ 1 John 2:19
- ❖ Drift assessments are a vital part of perseverance

Violating the law had consequences but disregarding the gospel is disastrous (2:2-3a)

² For since the message declared by angels proved to be reliable, and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution,

- ❖ The Law of God given to Moses came by God's use of angels
- ❖ What God delivered established law and order among God's people
- ❖ Disobedience brought the correction of God's judgment and justice
- ❖ Violating God's Law brought certain punishment

Violating the law had consequences but disregarding the gospel is disastrous (2:2-3a)

3a how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation?

- ❖ The consequences of turning from the word and work of Jesus are even more serious
- ❖ It is easy to get the wrong idea about not being under the law but under grace
 - ❖ We will not escape God's judgment if we drift from Jesus and the gospel
 - ❖ Hebrews 10:26–31
 - ❖ All recipients of New Covenant grace are not threatened from without by the Law but empowered for obedience from within
 - ❖ Romans 6:12–14
- ❖ Negligence regarding our devotion and dependence on the will and ways of Jesus is dangerous
- ❖ The promises and power of Jesus Christ are necessary provisions in our walk of faith and progressive salvation

Listen attentively to the saving communication of truth (2:3b-4)

^{3b} It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard,

- ❖ Jesus was the first to teach how He was bringing “*great salvation*”
- ❖ God requires absolute perfection
 - ❖ Jesus taught that God’s requirements for holiness are not defined down
 - ❖ Our salvation is secured by alien righteousness through faith in the work of Jesus Christ
- ❖ The message Jesus taught His disciples, and that they and their close associates taught to the churches, became the compilation of the New Testament

Listen attentively to the saving communication of truth (2:3b-4)

⁴ while God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.

- ❖ As the truths were taught and spread in the nations of the Roman Empire, God confirmed the veracity of the authority of these written truths by signs, wonders, miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit
- ❖ These works were like the works the Lord did during His earthly ministry
- ❖ The teaching of the Apostles was confirmed in the churches by miraculous displays empowered by God
 - ❖ It is God's power that confirms the authority and trustworthiness of His Word to His people
 - ❖ It is the Word of God that powerfully works in the hearts of those God saves through the work of the Holy Spirit
 - ❖ 1 Peter 1:22–25

Listen attentively to the saving communication of truth (2:3b-4)

- ❖ The power of the Holy Spirit working through Scripture is evident in communicator and recipient alike
 - ❖ 1 Thessalonians 1:2–10
- ❖ If we trust the superiority of Jesus Christ, we will trust His word to do His work by the power of the Holy Spirit
- ❖ Learning and applying the teaching of Jesus Christ is essential to our growth and security

Questions to Consider

- ❖ Why is it important for you to consistently pay attention to the word and work of Jesus as your Savior and Lord?
- ❖ How will you make “drift checks” a consistent part of your life and family?
- ❖ In what ways can you strive not to neglect the great salvation God provides for you through Jesus Christ?
- ❖ How have you seen the power of the Holy Spirit at work through the teachings of our Lord contained in the New Testament?



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