

The Danger of Drifting from the Gospel

Hebrews 2:1-4

In Hebrews 1 we see the superiority of Christ. He is “the radiance of God’s glory” and “the exact representation of God’s nature.” Jesus is greater than any angel. He is Emmanuel - God with us. What Jesus taught His disciples is what we call “the gospel” or “the good news.” In essence, the message of Jesus is that He is the fulfillment of the Law, and faith *in Him* is grace from on high.

I. The words Jesus spoke deserve your *closest attention*.

“*For this reason we must pay closer attention to what we have heard*” (v. 1). What reason? The higher the authority of the person who speaks, the closer attention we all ought to pay. Notice the progression: God “*has spoken to us in His Son*” (1:1), “*it was at the first spoken through the Lord*” (2:3) and “*confirmed to us [apostles]*” by “*signs, and wonders*” (2:3-4). A “sign” given to Peter, James and John was on the Mount of Transfiguration (Mark 9:7). “*This is my beloved Son, listen to Him!*” (*akouete auton* - Hear Him! Not Moses or Elijah). What has Jesus said? “*Christianity is evidenced by your love for one another*” (John 13:35). When a heart is filled with an understanding of God’s love, love will spill out of the heart.

II. Drifting from the Old Covenant Law brought judgment from God.

The word “Law” (v.2) refers to what the Jews knew as “Law”- the Old Covenant. The “Law” included all the Sabbath laws, the Temple laws, the ceremonial and sacrificial laws, et al. Remember, Hebrews was written to followers of Christ, all Jewish men and women. They had been threatened by the High Priest of the Hebrews (AD 65) to renounce Christ or die. The High Priest argued that he was simply enforcing “the Law” that God had given to them.

A. The Law was delivered through the angels (v. 2).

The Law (called “the word” or “the message” in verse 2) came from God through angels. God gave the Law on Sinai to Israel in the midst of “*10,000 angels*” (Deut. 33:2). This is why Stephen said to the Jews “*you received the law delivered by angels*” (Acts 7:53). Paul said the same thing: “*The law was put in place through the angels*” (Gal. 3:19).

B. Any transgression of the Law brought a “just penalty” (v. 2).

Every precept of the Law had a penalty attached to it. That’s why when you read Leviticus or Deuteronomy, you will often read of “penalties, the price of redemption, etc.” for “the Law” was “steadfast and unalterable.” It was given by God to Israel by the angels.

C. Jesus the “Anointed One” is the fulfillment of the Law.

Everything about the Law pointed to Christ—His person and His work. The Law is now set aside, including a notion that one’s righteousness comes from obedience to the Law. Our righteousness must “exceed” the Scribes’ and the Pharisees’ (Matthew 5:20). How? We have obtained a righteousness that comes from God and is found by faith (Phil. 3:9).

III. We shall not escape if we neglect so great a deliverance through Christ.

It is fashionable to speak of God’s love today without any mention of His righteous wrath. Hebrews 2:3 is a sober warning for anyone who drifts from the good news in Jesus Christ. You will not escape. You will not miss the coming day of wrath. God’s judgment is real. God affirmed Christ’s message by His miracles and His resurrection from the dead (2:4).