

For LIFE Group Discussion, week of Sept. 14-20

Sermon: Heb. 2:1-4 – In Danger of Drifting

Summary: Because Jesus is Superior to angels (and all other religious leaders and the like, 1:1-14), we are advised to pay specific attention to the gospel that we have heard and are familiar with. The author argues that if God punished OT believers for their disobedience to the Law (delivered by angels to Moses), how much more will we be liable to judgment if we don't pay attention, or neglect the (superior) message of Jesus. It's easy to sit in church, believe all the right things, and be complacent about Jesus, and be in danger of drifting away from Christ. God is still a God of justice and wrath. Jesus' salvation is great, because He is great and because He delivers us from a great consequence, the justice and wrath of God.

General Discussion starters: (Read the text aloud first)

1. What was the big idea of the message?
2. What did you get out of it?
3. What questions did it raise for you?

To the specific points:

4. In what ways is the message of Jesus superior to the message of the OT Law? Isn't the Law an equally valuable part of God's word? (hint: in the historic progression of God's revelation, the gospel is the culmination of all previous revelations)
5. Why do so many people believe that the God of the OT is a God of wrath and the God of the NT is a God of love and mercy? What's wrong with that perspective? How would you counter that perspective in a conversation with a friend or neighbor?
6. Why were the readers of Hebrews struggling with inattentiveness, drifting, and neglect of the gospel? What triggers that in you? (hint from last week: The Hebrew readers were going through major trials and testings. The writer is seeking to get them to hang in there in the face of adversity, doubt, skepticism, and now, apparently, indifference. How do these verses address their needs?)
7. What do these warnings do to you or for you? Motivate, frighten, confuse, discourage? Compare the "escape the wrath to come" message of the gospel vs. the "come to Jesus and He'll meet your needs" approach.
8. In what ways is complacency an issue for us?
9. How does this message apply to us? to our responsibility as witnesses to our neighbors? to our responsibilities to be our "brothers' keeper?" How could we take this message and deliver it to a church member? To an unchurched neighbor?
10. (Rabbit Trail of the week) Anybody have any first-hand experience with signs and wonders?

Prayer Suggestions:

- a. Give praise for our "great salvation."
- b. Pray through applications that were discussed.
- c. Pray for one friend or neighbor that needs this message.