

Years ago, in the Boundary Waters I was out fishing with another guy in my canoe. We thought we had found a reef off the shore about 100 yards. Had dropped anchor and were hoping for walleye. A few bites and then nothing for a half hour... And then I looked around and began to feel uneasy. Clouds were coming in. The wind had picked up, the anchor rope was taut and straight down. I realized that my anchor rock was not big enough and that we had been drifting for a while. We had to paddle hard to get back to camp.

Sometimes life is like that. We get caught up in what we are doing, not paying attention to where we are. Then we realize that we have drifted and are a long way away from where we wanted to be. We didn't know it. We were focused on our momentary desires, worries, and events. And then we are in trouble, in danger of being swept away by the world. It is hard work to get back.

Hebrews 2 has in the first verse an interesting word, a nautical word.

It means to drift or flow by, to be carried along, blown off course, to slip away.

We don't want to do that in life, but it can be so easy. And all of a sudden we think, "How did I get here?" How can we live without "drifting away?"

The whole chapter is an answer to that question, really the entire book of Hebrews.

Pastor Kent Hughes says, "Drifting is the besetting sin of our day."

C.S. Lewis writes, "If you examined a hundred people who had lost their faith in Christianity, I wonder how many of them would turn out to have reasoned out of it by honest argument? Do not most people simply drift away?"

How can we live without drifting away?

Verse 1 begins with an exhortation that is an immediate answer, "Pay attention."

To what? "To what we have heard."

What we have heard about what... or whom? To what we have heard about Jesus.

This is where the entire chapter is going, the entire book.

Jesus is our best guide, the firmest anchor, the High Priest and sacrifice we need, the only savior.

People in the world do not want to hear this today.

The world around us speaks of faith without an object, as if being a "person of faith" will save you.

Believe in whatever you want, they say. We are all just touching a different part of the elephant.

You can believe in Buddha, or Allah and Mohammad, or whatever collection of Hindu gods.

You can believe in the force, the human spirit, or whatever savior you wish to construct for yourself.

And we all ought to say to one another, "If that is your truth, good for you."

And yet, it is all a lie. A self-made god is not a god who can save you. Such a god is just more of you.

Jesus is the only savior, and if we drift away from Him we are lost.

Jesus is the only one who can save you.

In Acts 4:12, Peter says to people who do not want to hear it, "There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

Why does he say this?

Jesus says in John 14:6, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

Is He just being arrogant, or is He right?

Is Jesus Christ the only Savior? Is He the only way to Heaven?

The book of Hebrews gives us the arguments to back us the assertion.

In chapter 1 we learned that Jesus is superior to all the prophets and the angels.

These are all simply messengers from God. Jesus is God, the Son of God, Himself.

Which means that we must believe in Him, follow Him, and listen to Him.

Not to what we want Him to say or do, or what we imagine that He says or does. Not "my Jesus."

But we need to believe in the one real Jesus and listen to what the real Jesus said. Why?

I. God's spoken word and His works point to Jesus. Hebrews 2:1-4

Step back a moment from the Bible and ask yourself this question:

If God were planning to enter this world, how would He do it and How would He prepare us for it?

Would He arrive in a flaming chariot and be announced by shining angelic beings?

What would that communicate?

He might as well arrive in a spaceship with alien attendants.

And then would we even believe it 2,000 years later?

Would He come sneakily and surprise everyone, "Ta Da! Here I am!"

Can you think of a better way than this?

For 2,000 years prior, with increasing clarity, announce His coming by angels and prophets.

Those prophets would write their prophecies down among a people who carefully copied those prophecies.

And then He would arrive, with announcement made to people who were waiting to hear it.

And then, His followers, after He was here, would write down what He said and did so that others could read.

And their writing would be focused on accuracy rather than entertainment and exaggeration.

That is how God chose to do it and I cannot think of a better way.

This is why we need to pay attention to the predictions... the prophecies and angelic pronouncements.

This is what the author of Hebrews means by "what we have heard."

This is why it is so important for you to read and understand the Old Testament.

These writings are how the Lord prepared the world for His coming... to hear, see, and understand Him.

And what could be more important than to understand the God who made you?

And if that does not convince you of the importance of Jesus, consider His own words and works. (vss. 3-4)

Indeed, how will you escape? If you decide to ignore Jesus, God speaking, working miracles...

If you ignore Him, is there any hope for you? No.

You will just go on your way to hell with all the sin and twisted people and things in this world.

You will then just be subject to your own efforts to make sense of things in the midst of lies.

All you will have for guidance is the confused and awful things that people do and say.

How will you escape sin and judgment if you turn away from such a great Savior and such a great salvation?

You need to listen to Jesus, to think about what He has done and said. It is all in the Bible!

So, to not neglect so great a salvation, to not drift away from it... you must know the Word of God, the Bible.

It is God speaking, testifying, directing us to Jesus the only Savior.

His words cut through all the lies, give clarity, truth, and they point us to Jesus.

So, beside the fact that Jesus is God, what makes Him so great?

It is a silly question. Think about it. But the next four verses give us an answer.

II. All God's creation is under the authority of Jesus. Hebrews 2:5-8

But what we read here comes with a twist. All creation has been put under the authority of Jesus... the man!

Verse 5 tells us that this is something that is not at all true of angels, for all their power and prestige.

The author now quotes from Psalm 8 in verses 6-8 and does something remarkable.

I hope that I can communicate with you what He is doing in these verses. It is a little difficult to understand.

Raise your hand if you have questions. **Psalm 8**

This psalm is all about the greatness of God over His creation and the place of man in His creation.

In Hebrews, the quoted portion is Psalm 8:4-6 where it speaks of man.

And what does Psalm 8 say about man?

Man is small and forgettable in the grand scheme of things.

And yet God gives mankind a special place in His creation, glory, responsibility, sovereignty.

This is all true. We can kinda see it. But we sure have made a hash of things.

In fact, if you think about it, these verses apply to us only if we take the best view of the best people.

But there is a clue in verse 4 that the author of Hebrews grabs onto in seeing an even deeper meaning.

“The Son of Man” is Jesus’ favorite self-designation. It also shows up in Daniel 7.

Though these verses do describe mankind on our best day, they perfectly describe Jesus the Messiah.

Jesus is the perfect man who perfectly fulfills what we were made to be.

He is our model. His path is the path prescribed by God for us. Jesus shows us how to live.

Look at the psalm. He starts low, humble, thought of by God. (vss. 4-5)

Then, after being low, humble, He is crowned, rules over all creation, with everything under His feet.

This is **Philippians 2:3-11**. It is the right way to live. It is the path of our Savior, of salvation.

Moreover, Jesus had to become a man in order to die. And here is where we go next in Hebrews 2:9.

III. Salvation and sanctification come only from Jesus. Hebrews 2:9-13

Not only is Jesus God speaking. Not only is Jesus the perfect person who showed us the way to be a person.

But Jesus is the only one who has paid our sin penalty and has the power to transform our lives.

There is no one else, there is nothing else... no formula, no philosophy, nothing but Jesus.

Not that people haven’t tried. Oh, they have tried. There are religions, philosophies, books written...

We have 6,000 years of human history where gurus, sages, prophets, priests, philosophers have come and gone.

All claiming to teach a way of salvation and perfection... but without the Savior.

So these things come down to human efforts to find truth and live right. They all fail.

Because of sin, corruption, and rebellion we do not have it in us by ourselves to fix it.

Is this not obvious after 6,000 years or more?

These verses in chapter 2 recall **Hebrews 1:3-4**. Look at these five verses.

Verse 9 recalls the pattern of verses 6-8, but with an important magnification.

“Made a little lower than God/angels” now includes “the suffering of death.” Like Philippians 2.

And we also have a rationale for His suffering and death,

“So that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone.”

Do you see what Jesus has done? Verse 10 makes it even more clear.

Jesus suffered and died so that His death would take the place of our death.

The result of human sin, rebellion, and corruption... is death.

We see it in this world in so many ways in so many places. It is terrifying, ugly, and final.

But Jesus dies our death so that by believing in Him, anyone can share in His infinite eternal life.

Why did He do this? We have in verse 10 His motive.

Jesus wants “to bring many sons to glory.” He wants you and I to share His path with Him.

Suffering and trials now, faith, hope, and love through it so that we can share in His glory.

But that’s not all. Jesus is not just offering fire insurance, hell insurance.

Believe in Jesus and you don’t go to hell. Nope, that’s not how it works.

This comes as a package. It is an entire plan, the plan of salvation. Yes, your destiny is not hell, but heaven.

But there is so much that comes with that. And you cannot have the one without the other.

Two parts of the package show up in verse 10.

1. Sanctification = being made holy. Jesus makes us holy, in a moment when we believe and progressively.

When you are saved, when you believe, if you truly believe, Jesus begins a holiness project in your life.

He forgives your sins and begins working on you to eradicate sin in your life. You begin to change.

The Spirit convicts you of new sins. You are forced to face your ugly motives and desires.

Bit by bit, you are becoming more like Jesus, like the unique person He made you to be in Him.

2. Adoption = Jesus calls us His brothers, sons of His Father. (vss. 11-13)

The author of Hebrews here quotes words of Jesus before Jesus came.

vs. 12, Psalm 22:22 Jesus wants brothers with whom to honor His Father. It makes the praise better!

vs. 13, Isaiah 8:17-18 Jesus is faithfully gathering His Father’s children, you and me.

He is the only begotten Son of the Father, we are the adopted children.

Jesus is our good big brother who watches over us, teaches us, shows us how to be the Father’s child.

Only Jesus saves us, makes us holy, and makes us a child of the Father forever.