



PAY ATTENTION!

Hebrews 2:1-4

Introduction: "I Don't Believe That Anymore..."

I. Why Pay Attention? Because We Have a Tendency to Drift (v.1)

- A. Our Sinful Hearts Naturally Drift Away from God not Toward Him
 - o What are some things that cause people to drift away from God?
 - o Word "drift" refers to a ship at sea—unless a sailor proactively steers the boat it will just follow the currents

***Key point: drifting happens easily and imperceptibly (C.S. Lewis quote)*

- B. Does this mean a person can really lose their salvation?
 - o A person who is truly saved cannot ultimately lose their salvation (though there may be periods of disobedience)
 - o But the warning comes because many people in the church seem to be believers when they are not (e.g. Judas).
 - An "apostate" is someone who drifts away to the extent that they end up rejecting Jesus and proving themselves to be an unbeliever
 - Although true believers cannot be lost, God uses warnings to motivate believers to persevere in their faith

***The call to "pay attention" means we must do the opposite of drift—we must proactively strive and pursue Christ in the Christian life.*

II. Why Pay Attention? Because God is Just and Holds People Accountable (v.2-3a)

- A. God Held People Accountable for Old Testament Message of Salvation (v.2)
 - o OT message was clear and true: "Message declared by angels proved to be reliable"
 - o Thus, if people rejected that message their "disobedience received a just retribution"
 - What are some examples of God judging disobedient Israelites in the OT?



- B. How much more will God hold people accountable for the saving message of Jesus! (v.3a)
 - o If we reject the Son, “how shall we escape”? The seriousness of God’s justice is not diminished in the NT era but actually increased!
 - o Parable of the Vineyard—the Vineyard owner was upset when they rejected his servants, how much more his own Son

**Basic point: Jesus is our only escape from God’s Justice. If we reject him, then there is no other way to be saved..

III. Why Pay Attention? Because the Message of Jesus is Clear and True (v.3b-4)

- A. Jesus Himself Came to Earth and Declared the Message
- B. Apostles Declared the Message
- C. Message Confirmed by the Spirit
 - o The Spirit Performed Signs and Wonders
 - o The Spirit Gave Gifts to the Church



Discussion Groups

1. Do you know people who have drifted away from the faith? Do you sense the tendency of your own heart to drift?

2. Do you have a tendency to think that only the OT God is just and holy? How does this passage correct that misconception?

3. What are some steps you might need to take to keep yourself from drifting away and missing the message of salvation in Jesus?

