



# 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?

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

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

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