

Jesus is God's Ultimate Revelation: He Provides Salvation

2:1 We must pay more careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away. 2 For if the message spoken by angels was binding, and every violation and disobedience received its just punishment, 3 how shall we escape if we ignore such a great salvation? This salvation, which was first announced by the Lord, was confirmed to us by those who heard him. 4 God also testified to it by signs, wonders and various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will. Hebrews 2:1-4

Jesus is the ultimate revelation because...

...He is God and surpasses the prophetic word

...He is superior to the angels (last week)

...**He provides salvation** (this week)

Verse 1

We...

The author includes him/herself in this concern

Once again this demonstrates that the author is not one of the original disciples or **Paul**.

Pay attention...

This phrase is often used when mooring a **ship**

What we have heard...

There were TWO revelations to which we must pay attention:

1) The **Law**, which was brought by the angels

2) **Salvation** (the Good News, or Gospel), which was brought by Jesus

Do not drift away...

Literally means to "slip past the harbor"

- We aren't paying **attention**
- The slipping away is not necessarily **deliberate**

My Translation of this verse:

"We must anchor our lives to the things we have been taught so that our ship does not drift past the harbor."

The author is concerned that...

...the Jews will, by their lack of attention, fall back into a **lesser** message: the Law.

That would be worse than not having ever received Jesus.

...we aren't paying attention to where we are going.

When have we drifted away?

- When we pay more attention to the forms and legalisms of **religion** than we do to our relationship with Jesus Christ.
- It is not the obvious "big" sins but the daily drifting that takes us away from God. Those who reject God may reconsider.

Those who neglect God, those who let the opportunity to have a relationship with

God slip away, allow the passage of **time** to make their choices for them

(daughter calling Corey. Me at church. If we don't make decisions, time and others will make our decisions for us)

Verse 2

Message (the word)

1. Refers to the Law

2. Nowhere in the Bible does it say that the angels **brought** the law

a. This is just like some of our traditions that become so entrenched that most people believe them:

- Adam and Eve eating an **apple**
- The wise men visited with Jesus at the **manger**.

b. Angels were so entrenched in the minds of the Jews as bringers of law that...

- the author doesn't argue against it
- He uses this tradition in his reasoning as to why Jesus' word is greater than the law.

c. We trusted the angels and their message, we should doubly trust Jesus' message

There are 2 ways of falling away from God

1. **Violations**—To step across a **line**.
 - We no longer walk beside or in the path
 - This is intentional sin
2. **Disobedience**—We are unwilling to **hear** the voice of God
 - We neglect God's will
 - We want to cherry pick what we **obey**

Verse 3 DON'T FALL AWAY!!!

How shall we escape...

1. This question demands an answer: we **can't** escape
2. Disobedience to the law (the **lesser** of the two words) receives a punishment
3. How much greater the punishment for those who reject the ultimate word: salvation?

(If I disobey the crossing guard, like Sponge Bob who oversteps his authority, its one thing; but, if I disobey the police chief, it's a whole new world of hurting)

4. We are in the privileged position of having Jesus
5. God expects **more** of us because of the advantage we have over those who do not have Jesus.

Great salvation...

The Jews were offered other words of salvation, but Jesus' word is superior.

- Angels brought **government** and regulation
- Jesus brings **healing** and salvation.

Confirmed...

This word of Jesus has legal validity and is binding because there are two **witnesses**

- It was announced by the **Lord**
- It was confirmed by **apostles**

Verse 4

1. God, Himself, confirms the message of Jesus
2. Salvation is backed up by God's **power**:

- **Signs**: miracles that have a **meaning**, they are not pointless displays of power
- **Wonders**: emphasizes the marvelous aspect of the signs, that no human could produce them
- **Various**: there is no **uniformity** in the way God works. God cannot be limited.
- **Miracles**: actually means "mighty **works**." There is a transcendent power behind the signs. They are not of human origin
- **Gift of the Holy Spirit**
 - a. This is one verse in which the NIV's translation is **wrong!**
 - It is NOT *gifts distributed by the HS*.
 - The Holy Spirit **IS** the gift
 - b. God gives the Holy Spirit as a gift to us, as God wills: we have NO control over it.

The message of the day:

We have been blessed by the message of salvation:
therefore, stop neglecting it!