

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) 07 Sep ..... Hebrews 1:1-14 ..... Who Is Jesus?
- 2) **14 Sep ..... Hebrews 2:1-13 ..... Pay Attention**
- 3) 21 Sep ..... Hebrews 2:14-18 ..... Why One of Us?
- 4) 28 Sep ..... Hebrews 3:1-19 ..... Watch Out!
- 5) 05 Oct ..... Hebrews 4-5 ..... Secured with Confidence
- 6) 12 Oct ..... Hebrews 6:1-20 ..... Don't Walk Away
- 7) 19 Oct ..... Hebrews 7:1-28 ..... Only Jesus Saves
- 8) 26 Oct ..... Hebrews 8:1-13 ..... Only Jesus Transforms
- 9) 02 Nov ..... Hebrews 9:1-28 ..... The Perfect Offering
- 10) 09 Nov ..... Hebrews 10-11 ..... Faith Defined
- 11) 16 Nov ..... Hebrews 12:1-7 ..... The Discipline of Suffering
- 12) 23 Nov ..... Hebrews 12:18-29 ..... A New Kind of Community
- 13) 30 Nov ..... Hebrews 13:1-25 ..... Living Out the Faith

INTRODUCTION and BACKGROUND

- This passage is the first of 5 warnings about neglecting the faith, as it refers to believers neglecting their salvation – not rejecting their salvation
- We also find out that supernatural signs and wonders were for a select group of first generation apostles and disciples for a select time in history

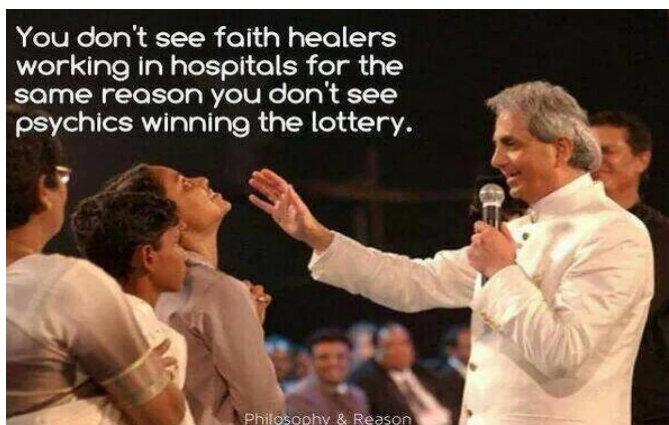
Passage	Comments
Hebrews 2:1	<p><b>We Must Pay Close Attention So We Do Not Drift</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Therefore” or “For this reason” – points us back to Chapter 1 and the reason we should pay close attention → Christ “upholds all things by the Word of His power” – He is our Lord and Savior – He is the reason for our existing</li> <li>• The world is filled with distractions</li> <li>• Avoid the Path of Least Resistance</li> <li>• How do we pay close attention?                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Devote more time &amp; energy to our Christian walk</li> <li>♦ Obey in the small things as well as in the big things</li> <li>♦ Watch our thoughts, words, actions, &amp; dispositions</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
2:2-3a	<p><b>Consequences for Neglecting Our Salvation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In essence, this passage is saying if the OT, delivered by angels, was reliable and unalterable and had undesirable consequences for the wayward, how much more so would we be held accountable for the rest of Scripture, as delivered by Christ, Himself</li> <li>• The author did not give a detailed list of consequences for neglecting one’s faith – he only warned of the certainty of such consequences                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Consider Ananias and Sapphira ..... Acts 5</li> <li>♦ Consider where many believers suffered sickness and death for not examining themselves properly prior to communion ..... 1 Cor 11:30</li> <li>♦ Consider where churches lost their effectiveness (removal of candlestick) for neglecting Christ ..... Rev 2-3</li> </ul> </li> <li>• God alone has the authority to decide appropriate consequences for a believer’s neglect, much like the varied ways a parent has at their disposal to discipline their children – one child may be disciplined differently from another based on numerous criteria (e.g., degree of humility / stubbornness)</li> <li>• <b>Illustration:</b> One of my daughter’s disposition in her young years was strong-willed and stubborn, so she needed additional persuasion to her seat of learning; while another daughter’s disposition was more pliable, and it only took a stern look to keep her in line</li> </ul>
2:3a-4	<p><b>God’s Salvation was Confirmed to Us by Others &amp; Testified to be True by Signs and Wonders of the Holy Spirit</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This passage shows the Gospel was initiated by Christ, then heralded and confirmed to the next generation of believers by “those who heard Him” directly, and who also had further substantiation by the workings of signs &amp; wonders</li> <li>• This passage conveys that supernatural signs &amp; miraculous wonders were passé by this time in history (68 AD)</li> <li>• We won’t see supernatural signs &amp; wonders again until the 2 witnesses come on the world scene, as depicted in Rev 11</li> <li>• We now have something better than supernatural signs &amp; wonders – The confirmed Word of God ..... 2 Peter 1:16-21</li> </ul>

Passage	Comments
2:5-8	<p><b>Another Comparison of Christ to the Angels</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is no comparison – True, Christ was once humbled from His exalted position to be lower than the Angels, but eventually assumed His rightful place next to God the Father</li> <li>• v8. ALL things are subjected to Him (e.g., authorities and kingdoms on earth and in the angelic realm) – BUT “we do not yet see all things subjected to Him”                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Similar to someone inheriting \$1M, but it is not available till they reach a certain age or a certain date</li> <li>♦ This squelches the prosperity &amp; charismatic teaching of claiming health &amp; wealth now, cause Christ has conquered sin &amp; disease – we are no longer under the curse</li> <li>♦ BUT, as this passage says we do not YET see that realization until the culmination of human history</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
2:9-10	<p><b>Christ had To Experience Our Frailty to Pay the Price of Sin</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v9. “by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone”                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Isn’t grace supposed to be a positive aspect of our faith?</li> <li>♦ Absolutely – but Christ had to die for us so we can benefit by God’s grace (God’s Riches At Christ’s Expense)</li> <li>♦ “Taste death for everyone” – IOW, Christ experienced more than just a short term temporal physical death; He experienced spiritual death / separation from God so that we do not have to experience that for all eternity</li> </ul> </li> <li>• v10. God “perfected the author of our salvation through sufferings” – Christ was never morally or spiritually imperfect, but His incarnation as a man was completed (perfected) when He identified fully with us on the deepest level of anguish, and became qualified to pay the price for our sins</li> </ul>
2:11-13	<p><b>God is not Ashamed to Call Us Brothers and Sisters</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v12. Christ will proclaim God’s glorious name to His brothers                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ That would be us – WOW</li> <li>♦ Christ is not ashamed, embarrassed, or disappointed in us one iota. He even calls us FRIENDS ..... John 15:15</li> </ul> </li> <li>• If Christ is not ashamed of us, there is no reason for us to be ashamed of Him – So let us boldly proclaim Him to others</li> </ul>

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS

- Let us be true to our calling to the end. If tempted to neglect our great salvation, consider the blessings that await us for remaining faithful.
- If that doesn’t work, please be pliable and humble so that all you need is a stern look to get back in line and not a strong swat somewhere
- Theology is not just a mental exercise. We must not only appreciate Christ, but appropriate Christ into our lives

**NEXT WEEK: Hebrews 2:14-18.** We find that Jesus endured the same emotional, physical, and psychological trauma humans often endure to show us that we too can endure trials, setbacks, temptations, and turmoil and come out victorious



Where once Christ and His first generation of Apostles and Disciples healed anyone and everyone of anything and everything, any time and every time, anywhere and everywhere they went – BUT since then, we have to admit such supernatural signs, wonders, and miracles have ceased per God’s will. We have got something better than temporary miracles – God’s Eternal Word