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

Lesson 2: Hebrews 11-13

- Lessons This Quarter

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| Hebrews 2:1 | We Must Pay Close Attention So We Do Not Drift
- “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
- The world is filled with distractions
- Avoid the Path of Least Resistance
- How do we pay close attention?
- Devote more time & energy to our Christian walk
- Obey in the small things as well as in the big things
- Watch our thoughts, words, actions, & dispositions

PASSAGE: Hebrews 1-13

- Consequences for Neglecting Our Salvation

- 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
- The author did not give a detailed list of consequences for neglecting one’s faith – he only warned of the certainty of such consequences
- Consider Ananias and Sapphira………………………Acts 5
- Consider where many believers suffered sickness and death for not examining themselves properly prior to communion……………………………1 Cor 11:30
- Consider where churches lost their effectiveness (removal of candlestick) for neglecting Christ …………..Rev 2-3
- 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)
- Illustration: 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

PASSAGE: Hebrews 1-13

- God’s Salvation was Confirmed to Us by Others & Testified to be True by Signs and Wonders of the Holy Spirit

- 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 & wonders
- This passage conveys that supernatural signs & miraculous wonders were passed by this time in history (68 AD)
- We won’t see supernatural signs & wonders again until the 2 witnesses come on the world scene, as depicted in Rev 11
- We now have something better than supernatural signs & wonders – The confirmed Word of God …………2 Peter 1:16-21

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 stem 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

You don’t see faith healers working in hospitals for the same reason you don’t see psychics winning the lottery.

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

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