

No Escape
Hebrews 2:1-4

Getting Started

- ❖ What are some warnings you are glad you listened to? What are some you wish that you had listened to?

Key Ideas for Discussion

1. The Warning About Drifting: No one is immune from “drifting away”. (v.1)
2. The Rationale For Vigilance: Drifting ends badly. (v.2-3a)
3. The Motivation for Vigilance: The gospel is true. (v.3b-4)

TT: Stay anchored to Christ so that you don’t drift away.

Digging Deeper (Read the sermon text again and discuss the following questions.)

- ❖ How is “what we have heard” in verse 2 related to 1:2?
- ❖ Verse 2 begins with causation words that mimic the Rabbinic style of arguing from the “lesser to the greater”. How would you summarize the “lesser to the greater” argument being made?
- ❖ What is the “message declared by angels” referring to?
- ❖ What are some examples of the “just retribution” that was experienced when God’s people violated the message given by the angels?
- ❖ According to 2:3-4 the message of salvation came to this group of believers with a threefold authority and validation. Explain each in your own words.
 - “declared at first”
 - “attested to us by”
 - “also bore witness”
- ❖ In light of all of 1:5-2:4 summarize why these Hebrew Christians were in great danger if they ignored “so great a salvation” (2:3) than the danger of those who violated the OT Law?
- ❖ How can a person ignore so great a salvation while still saying and thinking that he or she believes in Christ?

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Apply It!

- ❖ How do we or other modern Christians tend to drift away from God or fail to pay careful attention to what he has said as verse 1 speaks of?
- ❖ What restorative steps would you advise for those who have drifted away from God or failed to pay attention to His word?
- ❖ What restorative steps would you NOT advise for those who have drifted?

Think About It!

We have the idea that believers today “under grace” can escape the chastening hand of God that was so evident “under Law.” But to whom much is given, much shall be required. Not only have we received the Word from the Son of God, but that Word has been confirmed by apostolic miracles (Heb. 2:4). The phrase “signs and wonders” is found eleven times in the New Testament. Here it refers to the miracles that witnessed to the Word and gave confirmation that it was true. These miracles were performed by the Apostles (see Mark 16:17-20; Acts 2:43). Today we have the completed Word of God; so there is no need for these apostolic miracles. God now bears witness through His Spirit using the Word (Rom. 8:16; 1 John 5:1-13). The Spirit also gives spiritual gifts to God’s people so that they may minister in the church (1 Cor. 12; Eph. 4:11ff).

Too many Christians today take the Word of God for granted and neglect it. In my pastoral ministry, I have discovered that neglect of the Word of God and prayer, publicly and privately, is the cause of most “spiritual drifting.” I need not multiply examples because every believer knows that this is true. He has either experienced this “drifting” or has seen it in the lives of others.

The next time you sing “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing,” recall that the composer, Robert Robinson, was converted under the mighty preaching of George Whitefield, but that later he drifted from the Lord, He had been greatly used as a pastor, but neglect of spiritual things led him astray. In an attempt to find peace, he began to travel. During one of his journeys, he met a young woman who was evidently very spiritually minded.

“What do you think of this hymn I have been reading?” she asked Robinson, handing him the book. *It was his own hymn!* He tried to avoid her question but it was hopeless, for the Lord was speaking to him. Finally, he broke down and confessed who he was and how he had been living away from the Lord.

“But these ‘streams of mercy’ are still flowing,” the woman assured him; and through her encouragement, Robinson was restored to fellowship with the Lord. It is easy to drift with the current, but it is difficult to return against the stream. Our salvation is a “great salvation,” purchased at a great price. It brings with it great promises and blessings, and it leads to a great inheritance in glory. How can we neglect it? (Warren Wiersbe)