



INTRODUCTION

Hebrews 2:1-9

Visiting a beach is an exhilarating experience but can, at times, be dangerous. Recently, a surfer by the name of Jens Eventyr went surfing off the coast of Washington state. Finished with surfing, Jens attempted to paddle in to shore. Unfortunately, the 32-year-old Olympian was unable to reach the shore against the strong riptide and high waves. He was swept past the surf line and out to sea. While at sea for the next 20 hours he clung to his surfboard. The Coast Guard searched more than nine square miles of ocean before Jens finally made his way to shore more than 20 miles north of where he first put in. Upon reaching help, Eventyr said, “I wasn’t quite sure if I was going to make it and just kept going, doing the best I could.” No matter how beautiful the ocean may look, everyone must be on the lookout for hidden dangers. And today, in the same way early believers were warned not to forsake the supremacy of Christ, we also must guard our hearts and minds against anything that would cause us to diminish Christ in our lives.

In these verses, early Christians are warned to pay much closer attention to the Gospel. This section of Hebrews opens with an instruction: pay attention to the truths of the Gospel. The illustration given is that the truth of the Gospel is like an anchor point in the ocean. If you are not tethered to that anchor point, you run the risk of being carried away from it and into danger. If the recipients of Hebrews did not tether themselves to the truth (“pay much closer attention to”), they ran the risk of exchanging the truth for something else. This is the first of five warnings presented in the book of Hebrews.¹

Watch It Bible Principles

Watch Bible Principles #3; Heb. 2:1-4 www.villagebible.church/bibleprinciples

Open it

1. **What’s the most dangerous thing you have ever done? How old were you and did you realize the seriousness of the situation at the time?**

¹ <http://www.prestonwood.org/Bible-Fellowship-Leader-Resources>

Read it

Hebrews 2:1-9

Explore it

2. What is the message we have heard?
3. Who declared the message?
4. What did God use to authenticate the message?
5. What is in subjection to the Lord Jesus Christ?

Apply it

“Days Past”

Verses 2 through 4 elaborate on verse 1. In order to impress the weight of the situation, the author takes the reader back to the Old Testament Law. The phrase “the message declared by angels” is a reference to the Mosaic Law, a message that was delivered to man through an intermediary (see Galatians 3:19). As Jewish believers, the recipients would have been familiar with the idea that disobeying the truths of the Law (breaking the Law) carried consequences. Reminding them of this, the author then asks a rhetorical question in verse 3: If you knew that neglecting the Law carried consequences, did you think that neglecting the truths of the Gospel (an idea identified as “great salvation” in verse 3) wouldn’t carry any consequences? The implied answer is: Of course there will be consequences!²

6. How would you describe the Gospel?

² <http://www.prestonwood.org/Bible-Fellowship-Leader-Resources>

7. How does someone begin to “drift” away from the truth of the Gospel?

8. How does someone “pay much closer attention to” the message of Jesus? What disciplines have you established in your life to help you pay close attention?

A brief moment should be taken to clarify the term “neglect” in verse 3. Some scholars view Hebrews 2:1–4 through evangelistic lenses; they interpret the verses to warn non-believers that failure to accept Jesus carries consequences (namely, hell). However, the term used in verse 3 is “neglect,” not “reject.” To reject is to refuse; to neglect is to ignore. The recipients of Hebrews heeded the message when it was first given; they responded to the Gospel and became believers. However, now that they are believers, they must “cherish and heed” the message of salvation.³

9. Is there anything wrong with the phrase, “Once saved, always saved,” when it is used to describe the salvation of Christian?

³ David Allen, “Hebrews” in the New American Commentary, E. Ray Clendenen (Nashville, Tennessee: B & H Publishing Group, 2010), 194

10. Are there some common ways that Christians neglect their salvation? Have you seen any of these tendencies manifest themselves in your life of faith? What changes do you feel would be beneficial to make in your life so that you do not risk drifting away?

“Days to Come”

The role of Jesus in the work of salvation is described. Verses 5 through 9 place Jesus at the center of the work of salvation. Angels are brought to the forefront again in verse 5, this time with a particular emphasis on who would rule in the world to come (“world to come” will be fulfilled in Christ’s Second Coming). Angels were viewed with such reverence and yet it would be man, not angels, who would have dominion in the world to come. The author’s intent is not to degrade angels but to create a healthy vision of roles in God’s economy. Yes, angels are significant, but humanity is far from insignificant in the eyes of God. In verse 6, the author quotes Psalm 8:4–6. This passage speaks to God’s care for humanity as evidenced by His role in creation. God’s plan was that man would have dominion over all of the earth.⁴

11. We read about how we are placed in God’s creation in Psalm 8 - the Scripture that is being quoted in our passage. Read Psalm 8 and list the “perks” of being human:

12. What is our God-given place on earth?

⁴ <http://www.prestonwood.org/Bible-Fellowship-Leader-Resources>

“The Dilemma and The Solution”

But we have a serious problem here, for it is obvious that man today is not exercising dominion over creation. Certainly man cannot control the fish, fowl, or animal. In fact, man has a hard time controlling himself! “But now we see not yet all things put under him” (Heb. 2:8)

“But we see Jesus!” (Heb.2:9) He is God’s answer to man’s dilemma. Jesus Christ became man that He might suffer and die for man’s sin and restore the dominion that was lost because of sin. When our Lord was here on earth, He exercised that lost dominion. He had dominion over the fish (Matt. 17:24-27), over the fowl (Luke 22:34, 60), and over wild beasts (Mark 1:12,13), and the domesticated beasts (Mark 11:1-7). As the last Adam (1 Cor. 15:45), Jesus Christ regained man’s lost dominion. Today, everything is under His feet (Eph. 1:20-23).

“Man was crowned...with glory and honor” (Heb. 2:7), but he lost his crown and became the slave of sin. Jesus Christ has regained that “glory and honor” (Heb. 2:9), and believers today share His kingly dominion (Rev. 1:5,6). One day, when He establishes His kingdom, we shall reign with Him in glory and honor. Jesus Christ did all of this for us - for lost sinners - because of “the grace of God” (Heb. 2:9). If He had not become man, He could not have died and “tasted death [experienced death] for every man” (Heb. 2:9). It is true that angels cannot die; but it is also true that angels cannot save lost sinners and restore man’s lost dominion.⁵

13. Why does God care for man? How is this care evidenced in your life?

14. How would you describe Jesus as the “ideal man”?

⁵ Warren Wiersbe, “The Bible Exposition Commentary, Volume 2” (Colorado Springs, CO. Cook Communications Ministries, 2001), 283

- 15. Take a moment to read the description of Jesus in Revelation 19:11-21. What do you feel when you read this description of Jesus subjecting everything unto Himself? What does our world need more of - the baby Jesus or the Rider on the White Horse Jesus?**

Remember what Jesus has accomplished; hold tight to it. The recipients of Hebrews were facing persecution and trials, making it difficult to remember that this life is not a reflection of the days to come. You may be in a similar circumstance. It is difficult to think about a final victory because today is so discouraging. You cannot see into the future, to glimpse everything in subjection to Christ. But, you can see Christ today. Knowing Him, His glory and honor, His character, you can be confident that one day you will see His final victory.⁶

- 16. What role does hope play in someone's faith life? Share a story of someone in your life who suffered well while holding on to the hope of Jesus.**

⁶ <http://www.prestonwood.org/Bible-Fellowship-Leader-Resources>

This study was compiled and questions were written by Pastor Steve Lombardo (Plano Campus) —www.villagebible.church/smallgroup