



Another Key to Prevent Drifting
Hebrews 2:1-4
September 13, 2020

Last week we noted the danger of drifting spiritually and the need for worship, perseverance, and fellowship (Hebrews 10:19-25). We might also supposed that it would help to be stricter about such things and others, even though we probably would not desire to be. Yet strictness is not the right answer or approach. Such thinking is very similar to approaching God by law, something that has failed time and time again.

Instead, the key to prevent drifting provided in Hebrews 1-2 begins with recognizing *how extremely valuable* is the message and salvation God has given us. Its value is related to the One through whom we received it, namely, Jesus. In contrast to the ways God spoke before, in these last days he has spoken by a utterly different way that we might call “the Son method” (1:1-2, lit. “he has spoken to us by a Son”). What’s more, his Son has impressive credentials: heir of all things, agent for creating the world, radiance of God’s glory, exact representation of God’s nature, sustainer of the universe, provider of purification for sins, and seated at the right hand of God, the place of highest honor and authority (Hebrews 1:1-3).

Those tempted to turn to a stricter, law-like approach should know that Jesus is also vastly superior to the angels, who mediated the law (Acts 7:53; Gal. 3:19). He is God’s Son, has an eternal throne, is immortal, and sits at God’s right hand. In contrast, angels are servants and are called to worship him (Hebrews 1:4-14).

What’s more, our great salvation was not only declared by Jesus, it was attested by those who first heard it, and God himself bore witness to it by miracles done through the Spirit (2:1-4). The loud and clear message of Hebrews 1:1-2:4 is that the word and salvation we have received is of unsurpassed value! Truly recognizing this is the first step to prevent drifting.

The second step is based on the first, namely, “we must pay the most careful attention to what we have heard” (2:1) and make sure we do not “ignore” so great a salvation (2:3). Don’t confuse this with being “strict” on ourselves. That is the old, inferior way mediated by the angels. Rather, by recognizing the vastly superior value of the message and salvation brought by Christ we are led to pay careful attention to it.

Tracing phrases like “pay attention” and “do not neglect” gives us warnings of things that might cause us to drift away:

Our business or work (Matthew 22:5)

Self-righteousness, hypocrisy (Matthew 6:1; 16:6; Mark 12:38)

Our susceptibility to temptation (Luke 17:1-3)

Drunkenness, dissipation, and anxieties of this life (Luke 22:34)

Instead, we should pay close attention to matters like:

Messages from God (Hebrews 12:25)

Our flock (Acts 20:28)

Our spiritual gifts (1 Timothy 4:14)

Doing good and sharing (Hebrews 13:16)

Paying attention to such things may also help us better see the value of what we have. Still, ongoing prayer, reflection and worship are also needed to remind us of what is truly valuable.