

(1) Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. For since the message declared by angels proved to be reliable, and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard, while God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to His will.

(5) Now it was not to angels that God subjected the world to come, of which we are speaking. It has been testified somewhere,

“What is man, that You are mindful of him, or the Son of Man, that You care for him? You made Him for a little while lower than the angels; You have crowned him with glory and honor, putting everything in subjection under His feet.”

(8b) Now in putting everything in subjection to Him, He left nothing outside His control. At present, we do not see everything in subjection to Him. But we see Him who, for a little while, was made lower than angels --- namely, Jesus --- crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone.

Think on these things:

- 1) “Therefore” in v.1 points us back to what we learned in chapter one. We are directed to “pay much closer attention to what we have heard.” Why are we to pay closer attention now? Consider Hebrews 1:2-4 and 13-14.

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- 2) According to v.1b, what is a possibility for people who have heard and responded to God’s word?

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- 3) In v.3 it asks, “How shall we escape...?” What --- in the human experience --- do you think we are trying to escape anyway?

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- 4) Do you consider your personal salvation “great”? What kinds of things make it this special to you?

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5) An important truth about being saved is that only Jesus can do this for you. This statement is met with rejection by people of other faiths and of no faith. Essentially, why do Christians think they only are correct about the meaning of life, and life after death?! What did Jesus say about Himself in John 14:6, and have you any advice for helping others accept this statement?

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6) The message proclaimed by Jesus has been passed down to us by those who directly heard Him (v.3, primarily the disciples, but also the people from the crowds who heard Him). What further testimony is identified in v.4 regarding how God authenticated Jesus' message through others?

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7) God the Father has subjected "the world to come" to Jesus' authority (see Philippians 2:9-11). Is that also true today in our present world (v.8b)? Explain. Consider Matthew 7:13-14.

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8) How is the "grace of God" explained in v.9?

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9) What's your opinion? Why do you think so many people neglect and reject the Great Salvation offered through Jesus Christ? What did it take for you to come to a point of acceptance?

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People and situations I want to pray for this week: