

“Hear and Heed!”

Hebrews 2:1-4

East Berlin Community Church

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Introduction

- *What about people who have made a profession of faith in the past, but have drifted away from the faith? How is that possible?*
- **The Scripture teach that once a person is genuinely born again, they cannot lose their salvation.**
 - **From the Sovereign God’s point-of-view...**
 - **Selection ends in glorification.**
 - Romans 8:29-30-- *“For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.”*
 - **Believers are given “eternal life” and the promise of never perishing.**
 - John 10:27-29-- *“My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father’s hand.”*
 - John 5:24-- *“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.”*
 - **Nothing can ever separate us from the love of Christ.**
 - Romans 8:38-39-- *“neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*
 - **From our viewpoint...**
 - **Those whom God chooses and predestines must believe the gospel in order to be saved.**
 - Ephesians 1:4-5-- *“God chose us in him before the foundation of the world”* and has *“predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will.”*
 - **Those who are genuinely born again will exhibit certain characteristics...**
 - **They will “hear and heed” what Jesus has to say.**
 - John 10:27-- *“My sheep hear my voice and I know them and they follow me”.*
 - John 5:24-- *“he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life”*
 - **They will become new creations in Christ Jesus. Their lives will change.**
 - 2 Corinthians 5:17-- *“if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”*
 - **The “warning sections” in the book of Hebrews are opportunities for us to reflect, to take spiritual inventory, to test the mettle of our faith. And they are included to encourage us to persevere, not to fall back, but to go on to maturity. They are addressed to both “possessing” believers and “professing” believers.**

“Hear and Heed!”

- Hebrews 2:1-4-- *“Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away. For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him, God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will?”*
- A. **The COMMAND:** *“Give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard.”*-- Hebrews 2:1
1. **The word “heed” means more than listening to, but includes taking action.**
 - Acts 16:14-- *“The Lord opened her heart to heed the things spoken by Paul.”*
 2. *“the things we have heard”*-- the whole teaching about Christ and Christian living
 3. **Similar admonitions to “hear and to heed”.**
 - James 1:22-- *“But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”*
- B. **The CONCERN:** *“lest we drift away”*
1. **Question as to who or what “drifts away”?**
 - a. **King James Version**, *“lest at any time we should let them slip”*, that is, *“the things which we have heard.”*--
 - Proverbs 4:20-22-- *“My son, give attention to my words; Incline your ear to my sayings. Do not let them depart from your eyes; Keep them in the midst of your heart; For they are life to those who find them, and health to all their flesh.”*
 - b. **New King James Version**
 - Hebrews 2:1-- *“we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away.”*
 - 1) The message of the Gospel does not drift away. We do!
 - 2) The believers at Galatia had “drifted away” or deserted the true gospel.
 - Galatians 1:6-9-- *“I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed.”*
2. **Those who are immature in their faith are particularly prone to drifting.**
 - Ephesians 4:12-13-- *“for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ. ”*
 - Ephesians 4:14-- *“we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting.”*
- C. **The CONSEQUENCES:** *“of drifting away, hearing but not heeding”*
- Hebrews 2:2-3-- *“For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him”*

1. **Consequences in the Old Testament times among the Jews.**
 - a. **The message delivered through angels did not vacillate nor fluctuate, but was firm, binding, settled.**
 - b. ***“Every transgression and disobedience received a just reward”***
 - Numbers 15:30-31-- *“But the person who does anything presumptuously, whether he is native-born or a stranger, that one brings reproach on the LORD, and he shall be cut off from among his people. Because he has despised the word of the LORD, and has broken His commandment, that person shall be completely cut off; his guilt shall be upon him.”*
 - c. **The various “just punishment” for breaking the law depending upon what was done.**
 - d. **The punishment of the Jews was more severe because they knew better.** They had God’s law. The degree of punishment is always tied to the amount of “light” one has.
2. **Consequences in New Testament times for neglecting the gospel, ignoring this “great salvation!”**
 - a. **Addressed to those who have heard the gospel but have not acted upon it.**
 - Luke 12:47-- *“servant who knew his master’s will, and did not prepare himself or do according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes.”*
 - b. **Warning also to those who have heard and heeded the gospel initially, but fail to live the gospel on a daily basis.**
 - c. **Consequences for believers are not eternal, but temporal.**
 - 1) The disciplinary hand of God on us.
 - Hebrews 12:6-- *“For whom the LORD loves He chastens, and scourges every son whom He receives.”*
 - 2) Lack of peace, and joy in life, lack of God’s blessings
 - 3) Stunted spiritual growth
 - 4) Loss of rewards
 - d. **The writer does not spell out what the consequences might be. He just warns us that we should not think that we will somehow get by without paying the price for not hearing and heeding.**

D. The CONFIRMATION: “of the message as true”

- Hebrews 2:3-4-- *“How shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him, God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will?”*
1. **The Message of salvation, including Christian living, originates with Jesus.**
 - a. **The way of salvation originates with Jesus.**
 - John 3:16-- *“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”*
 - John 3:18-- *“He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”*
 - John 6:40-- *“And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day.”*
 - John 14:6-- *“I am the way, the truth, and the life. No man comes to the Father but by me!”*

- b. **The way of living the Christian life is to follow Jesus.**
 - Luke 9:23-24-- *"If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it."*
- 2. **The Apostles who heard Jesus preach, witnessed the resurrection, elaborated on His words.**
- 3. **The Confirmation came from God the Father Himself**
 - a. **Confirmed His Son**
 - John 5:37-- *"The Father who sent me has himself testified concerning me!"*
 - Matthew 17:5-- *"This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!"*
 - b. **Confirmed the apostles' message with "*signs, wonders, miracles, gifts of the Holy Spirit*"**
 - 1) *"signs"*-- miracles with a message
 - 2) *"wonders"*-- emphasize the marvelous aspect of the signs. It had to be from God, not man.
 - 3) *"miracles"*-- "mighty works"
 - 4) *"gifts of the Holy Spirit"*
 - 1 Corinthians 14:22-- *"Tongues, then are a sign, not for believers, but for unbelievers."*
 - Mark 16:20-- *"And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs."*

BOTTOM LINE: We have a certain, true message from God, delivered to us from Christ through the Apostles, confirmed by the Father through signs, wonders, miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, recorded for us in the pages of the New Testament. Since Christ has spoken, we had better listen and heed what He has to say.

- Hebrews 2:1-- *"Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away."*