

Spiritual Growth Questions for May 3, 2020

(take one question each day and grow deeper in Bible study)

1. **Read Hebrews 2:1, 1:1-3.** How is 'what we have heard' in 2:1 related to chapter 1:1-3? Write out what we have heard.
2. **Read Hebrews 2:2.** What are the three ways the message from angels was given authority and validated?
3. **Read Hebrews 2:3-4.** What are the three ways the message of Jesus was given authority and validated? How do you see each person of the Trinity involved in the message? How does Jesus, the second Adam, reverse what the first Adam brought to all people?
4. **Hebrews 2:1-4** illustrates the principle that the more light one receives, the more severe the punishment for violating or ignoring that light. **Read Mathew 11:20-24 and Luke 12:47-48.** Examine how these passages relate to and support this principle. What implications does this principle have for your life?
5. **Read Proverbs 4:20-21, I Timothy 4:11-16, Psalm 139:23-24.** What principles and practices can we apply to our own spiritual lives from these passages? What is the connection between hearing and obeying the Word with spiritual wellness?
6. What are some things in your own life that make it difficult to hear God's message? What do you frequently entertain that distracts you from hearing his Word and tempts you to drift?
7. What role does doctrine have in helping us fight spiritual drift? How do the spiritual disciplines—prayer, daily Scripture reading, Scripture memorization, fasting, journaling and evangelism help?
8. How does being a part of a local church help you fight spiritual drift? How can you incorporate the resources of the church to help you in this battle?
9. How can Christ's superiority in all things help you avoid spiritual drift?

Hebrews 2:1 It's crucial that we keep a firm grip on what we've heard so that we don't drift off. (The Message)

Better with Jesus: A Study of the Book of Hebrews

How is it with your soul? Hebrews 2:1-4

May 3, 2020

Pastor John Lloyd

The book of Hebrews presents the greatness of Christ like no other New Testament writing. The author knew that by remembering and lifting up Jesus, he would help the readers endure their difficult circumstances. As this book is read, it demands a response. Let's take advantage of this time to listen to Him and pray this study will help us grow and be Better with Jesus! Today we will focus on the question, "How is it with your soul?" Our prayer is that each one can say, "It is well with my soul."

Hebrews 2:1 Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. 2 For since the message declared by angels proved to be reliable, and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, 3 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, 4 while God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.

Key Question: How it with your soul? Why should we give attention to our soul and our relationship to God?

Big Idea: Receiving and focusing on the salvation given by Jesus keeps us from drifting away.

I. Ignoring and neglecting our relationship with God is our natural _____ setting.

Hebrews 2:1 Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it.

Universalism-

Legalism-

Naturalism-

Hebrews 2:2 For since the message declared by angels proved to be reliable, and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, 3 How shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation?

"And as a matter of fact, if you examined a hundred people who had lost their faith in Christianity, I wondered how many would turn out to have been reasoned out of it by an honest argument? Do not most people simply drift away?" C.S. Lewis "Drifting is the besetting sin of our day." Kent Hughes

Drifting and neglecting has consequences! Hebrews 2:2, Gal. 6:7-8

Beware of letting temporary reliefs soothe and content us while we ignore eternal issues. How is it going with our soul?

Matthew 3:7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? 8 Bear fruit in keeping with repentance.

Mark 1:15 Jesus saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel." John 1:29, Acts 17:30

Our Response: God show us where we are prone to drift, or if we are drifting right now. **Read Psalm 139:23-24.** Pray it as a prayer to God and ask for His help to show us the way.

Repenting and returning to God is how we begin to address neglect in our spiritual lives. Without Jesus, it is not well with my soul.

II. Our souls _____ when we give full attention to Jesus.

Hebrews 2:1 Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it.

God has spoken through the prophets Hebrews 1:1, through His Son Hebrews 1:2 and through His Word, Hebrews 1:3.

Why give attention to what we have heard?

1. Jesus is greater than the angels and the prophets.
2. All who ignore and/or neglect the message are in a precarious and dangerous position.
3. The message is great with countless blessings.

Colossians 2:14 having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross. (Romans 5:12, Ephesians 2:8)

Hebrews 2:3 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. (John 3:14, Luke 19:10)

I Corinthians 15:49 As we have borne the image of the man of dust (first Adam), we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven (second Adam Jesus.)

Jesus (the second Adam) restores our relationship with God which was lost by the sin of the first Adam. It can be well with my soul!

III. Wherever and whenever Jesus is exalted, lives are _____!

Hebrews 2:3 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,

I Corinthians 15:5 and that he (Jesus) appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. 6 Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. 7 Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. 8 Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. 9 For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

Hebrews 2:4 while God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will. Rom. 1:4

Acts 4:13 Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus.

Acts 4:20 for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard."

What does it mean to you? Why did Jesus do it? Why did he die on the cross? Can I possibly respond to the Son of God who did all of this for me and say, "It has nothing to do with me?"

Hebrews 2:1 It's crucial that we keep a firm grip on what we've heard so that we don't drift off. (The Message)

The writer of Hebrews wants this church to know that it's absolutely crucial for them (and us) to keep a firm grip on what we've heard.

Bad News: We all deserve to be separated from God forever. There is even more bad news for those who reject Jesus.

Good News: Those who truly repent and put their trust in Christ are forgiven and saved. There is no one who is beyond the reach of salvation through Jesus.

Proverbs 4:20 My son, pay attention to what I say; listen closely to my words. 21 Do not let them out of your sight, keep them within your heart;

Hebrews 6:18 so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us. 19 We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain, The question is not will our anchor hold, but will we hold onto our anchor?

Ask God to reveal to you afresh the greatness of His salvation. Treasure your salvation. How is it with your soul? It is well with my soul!