

# The Danger of Drifting

*Studies in Hebrews*

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**Bible Text:** Hebrews 2:1-4

**Preached on:** Sunday, October 9, 2011

## **Grace Baptist Church**

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Ok. Let's take our Bibles this morning and turn to Hebrews chapter two. And for the first time in several weeks it is not a Christ better than angels message. I have entitled this message this morning... and this is a warning and it is an unbelievable warning that we have here in Hebrews chapter two. I have entitled this message, "The Danger of Drifting," Hebrews chapter two.

Now one of the things if you have ever really studied the book of Hebrews, one of the things that jumps out as you read through the book of Hebrews is Hebrews is a book of warnings. It really is. I mean there is warning after warning after warning as you go through the book of Hebrews and in these verses that we are going to look at this morning, we are basically confronted with a parenthetical statement. It is kind of a parentheses in between this section where he is glorified and honored and exalted the Lord Jesus Christ and proven that Christ is infinite and superior to angels and where he moves into the next section where he proves Christ's superiority over that old law, over that old covenant.

And in this parentheses section here that we will be looking at for the next several weeks, we have the first of five warnings sections in this epistle in this book. And we have got to remember. When I say that it is a book of warnings, we have got to remember that this epistle is also not only a book of warnings, but it is full of encouragements as well. There is a lot of warnings, but a lot of encouragements to you and me as God's children. And none of these warnings and I want to emphasize this. None of these warnings that the apostle Paul pushes toward the children of God and tells us to seriously and honestly and sincerely look at them are warnings that are legal, that is to say, that it is... he is not saying if you don't do this you are going to hell. And they are not mercenary. He is not saying if you do this you are going to get a star on your crown. That is false religion. Any religion that tells you if you will do this, God will do that. Folks, we have gone into works, pure and simple.

And if they tell you if you do this you are going to be improved and you will get more things and God is going to take care of you, that is not found... I will tell you what. God has promised us basically two things. He has promised us that we have eternal life in his

Son according to Philippians chapter one. We have life in the Son. It has been given unto you on the behalf of Christ not only to believe on his name, that is one thing that has been given to us. Also it has been given unto you, you and me, these Hebrew believers experienced it more so than we ever have in our lives. It has been given unto you also to suffer for his name's sake.

Outside of that, I don't have much of a gift for you. That is it.

You say, "Well, I don't like that. I want wealth and prosperity."

He has not promised us that. Let us having food and raiment therewith be content. Huh?

These guys are crazy that can promise you that if you believe... and I have seen people do it. They think, well, I will believe the gospel and my marriage will straighten up. Ain't going to do it. I will believe the gospel and I will get a good job.

Tell that to Lazarus lying at the gate wanting to eat the crumbs that fell from the rich man's table. He believed the gospel. He ended up in glory. He was dirt... there is nothing wrong with being poor.

You know, David made that comment. He said, "Lord, don't let me be poor lest I despise you, nor rich lest I forget you."

There is danger on both ends of the spectrum. And you can sin as quickly as against God as a rich person as you can as a poor person. Don't let anybody tell you there is something wrong with you being wealthy. There is a lot of wealthy believers. There is some wealthy believers in other churches miles from us that helped us tremendously with what God has graciously given them over the years. So don't tell me it is God's will for you to be a poor person. You are a poor person because you won't work hard. Put effort out and put energy.

You say, "Well, I am doing all those things and I am still poor."

Well, maybe that is God's purpose, too, in us. You do what you can. So we are not talking about that if you do these things or if you don't do these things this warning is going to...

Because you have got to remember Paul also his main goal was that these believers, he is wanting them and he is wanting you and he is encouraging them and us to be firm and dogmatic in the fact that Christ's righteousness alone entitled us to all of salvation before we take the first step by way of obedience.

You tell me your religious people told you that. Before you take that first step by way of obedience, you are already saved. You are already qualified. You are already fit. You are already entitled. You are already made the righteousness of God in him before you ever

pray or give or walk to love or obey in any way, shape, form or fashion. That is what he wants concreted into your mind.

He wanted to show them and I want to show you and I want myself to see this morning that nothing can rival or even compare with who? The glorious person of Christ, his person, his Word and this great salvation that he has accomplished by his obedience unto death for everybody whom he represented. Nothing can rival him.

I tell you, one of the most comforting and encouraging truths in the gospel is the fact that my final glorification, every believer's final glorification is certain based on his righteousness alone.

Do you ever think about Titus chapter three verse five? You ought to. It was telling me in the Sunday school hour this morning, "Pick the book up. You miss out on a lot because you don't pick the book up."

"Not by works of righteousness which we have done."

I would say that encompasses everything including my faith. Faith is a work of righteousness. Is it not? Wouldn't you say faith is a work of righteousness? Yeah.

"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but by his mercy he saved us."

Do you hear the language? Not he put us in a savable position. He qualified us to where we [?]

"...by the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Spirit."

Think about that. Think about what you have been given and what you possess based on his accomplished death. He did it all. Everybody [?]. I guarantee you. Everybody everywhere in every church every place today at some point down they are going to sing, "Jesus paid it all." Right? All to him I owe. And yet they turn around and trying to take their paltry works and paltry effort and paltry faith and hold it up in the face of a sovereign omnipotent eternal God who can accept nothing but perfection and say, "Here I am. Here is what I have got. Carry me in."

"Not by works of righteousness which we have done."

That ought to cause every true believer to see the value of the gospel. And it ought to cause you to value it more than anything else. I think about it like this.

Our Lord talked about the pearl of great price. Remember that? When he found that pearl of great price, what did he do? He hid it first. And then he went and got the money and he bought the field. Because what was the most important thing? That pearl.

And it ought to inspire you. This knowledge and understanding of who Christ is and what

he did and what he actually accomplished ought to cause you and inspire you to be diligent in attending the use of means to grow in grace and knowledge of the truth.

I get so frustrated with believers, justified saints, who are so discouraged and so down [?] and so uncomfortable and so worried and so anxious yet they never read the book. They have never seek out God's face in prayer.

Something is wrong with that picture, folks. You want encouragement? Read the book. You want comfort? Read the book. You want to be uplifted? Come join with your brethren. That's what you are going to hear here.

If you don't come to church you are going to hell.

How many times have you heard that in 24 years? And I know I am the world's worst about writing folks off. But it is wrong. It is just sinfully wrong. But you don't get anything here but comfort and encouragement. That is all we do. That is the gospel ministry. I... everything.... I have told you this for years and I will continue as long as I am your pastor. Every word that I utter from this pulpit comes from the heart of God's almighty that speaks to me comfort ye, comfort ye, my people, saith the Lord. Speak comfortably to her. And tell her... And this is what I am telling you this morning. Your warfare is accomplished. You have received double. Double payment has been given for everything that you have done. You can't pay anything. That is what you hear. I mean that is... every sermon that I have preached be it Sunday morning, Sunday Bible class, Wednesday night is always about that accomplishment, that debt.

Now here in Hebrews chapter two verse one we have a warning given in the form of an exhortation. And this warning, like I said a moment ago, is not motivated by legal or mercenary reason. That is to say, it is not motivated by threats of punishment or promise of reward. It is motivated based on the certainty of final glory already accomplished, already fulfilled, already guaranteed based on the person of Christ that he already has glorious set forth in chapter one.

Now notice verse one.

“Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip.”

Therefore, you heard that so many times. I am not going to make that statement about therefore. But I will say this, this morning. Everything that the apostle is going to say from this point forward is to be taken in consideration of what he wrote in chapter one, what he has written before. Every encouragement to obedience is founded upon the great truth that Christ's righteousness alone entitled every believer to the whole inheritance of grace and glory.

And here in Hebrews chapter two verse two through four we see the certainty of eternal misery for all who neglect Christ and his great salvation.

Notice what he says in verse two.

“For if the word spoken by angels was stedfast...”

That is, we are talking about the law again. Remember, because that is what... the law was given though the hands of angels to Moses. And he says:

“For if the word spoken by angels was stedfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward....”

You broke the law, what happened to you. You committed adultery unto the law and what did they do to you? You was a dead person, huh? You stole? You murdered? Even accidentally murdered somebody. Do you remember that? Read the book.

You are out there working in the field. Me and Bart out working in my yard over there. We was cutting all those limbs and Bart about worked me to death and he had to cut a limb down under the lawn and the limb had fell on me and killed me, he would ... I was the one cutting them down up high. If I had cut a limb down and dropped it on Bart's head and killed him dead, under the law, folks, I couldn't go to Sally and say, “Sally, I accidentally killed Bart. Would you forgive me?” I hit the road. And I hit the road to the city of refuge, because they had the right, even though it was an accident to put me down over that thing.

They talked about if the axe head flies off. Actually that is a pretty accidental thing if you are out there working with an axe and the axe had flies out and whops somebody next to you. What is the likelihood of that happening? But I tell you. Get that law in your mind of how strict it is and how it won't let you go. It will not clear you in any way, shape, form or fashion. And he says here, “How shall we escape if we neglect...” Not what was spoken by the angels, but what? “So great salvation which at first began to be spoken by who?”

Who spoke this great salvation? Our Lord.

“And was conformed unto them that heard him by also bearing them witness with signs and wonders.”

Who is that? The apostles. There are no apostles today. There are no signs. There are no wonders. They are not going on.

“Both with signs and wonders and with different miracles and gifts of the Holy Spirit all according to his will, his own will.”

Now get this in your head this warning. This solemn warning is given to all who neglect or who don't continue in the gospel. That is who the warning is. It is not to the world. It

is to those who refuse to continue in or who refuse or who actually neglect what? This great salvation.

Now I know everybody says, “Well, hold, now wait... Does that mean that final glorious condition on you holding out to the end?”

You know better than that. Not at all, because the substance of the warning here is to do what? Trust Christ alone. Because he said, “How shall we escape if we do what? Neglect so great salvation.”

See, so the warning is for us to keep all our heart and all our mind and all our focus on what? The great salvation. I used to say all of salvation based on Christ alone, base don the consideration of the excellency and glory of his person and of his accomplishments. And this warning can't teach salvation conditioned on the sinner in any way, shape, form or fashion when the warning itself is for believers to continue to hold fast the blessed truth that all of their salvation was totally conditioned on Christ and that his righteousness alone entitled them and qualified them for salvation.

Get this, this morning. Believers are kept by the power of God through faith which delights where? In Christ? Do you delight in Christ this morning?

I will tell you what. I don't know about you, but my heart would sink, especially during trial if it weren't for the certainty of my salvation based on Christ's blood and his righteousness alone. Wouldn't you?

If I didn't have that conscious consideration that all of God's love for me is where? In his Son, my substitute and my surety, my representative. God loved me in him. And listen. My love, My God's love for me is as safe as his love for the Son. But for God to stop loving me he would have to stop loving Christ.

You take that to the bank. That is the gospel. Is it not? That is good news.

Trials and persecution and affliction make God's gospel more precious to us, folks. It drives our hearts and our minds and our souls as he continually reveals to us more and more and more of the person and the finished work of his Son the Lord Jesus Christ.

Now notice two points this morning. First one is this. Don't be a drifter. Notice verse one again.

“Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip.”

In light of the greatness of the revelation of God through Christ, now that this revelation is complete. Remember chapter one.

“God who at sundry times and in different ways spoke unto our fathers by the prophets hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son.”

The revelation is complete. There is nothing new under the sun. It is not getting added to. It is a complete revelation. Paul encourages them to give an honest, sincere, diligent, consideration for these things concerning the believer's completeness in Christ. That is what he is telling them.

Now the thing that they have heard... what are the things that they... what is the things you have heard? I have heard a lot of stuff in 53 years, haven't you? Well, he is talking about here that we ought to give the earnest heed to the things that we have heard. Think about the gospel itself.

He said of the Thessalonians, he said of them, he said, “My gospel came not to you in word only, but how did it come? In power and in much assurance.”

Didn't he say that? Have you heard that gospel that comes in power and in much assurance, much comfort, much security, much rest and trust and reliance upon Christ. Giving heed to these things would cause these believers, these Hebrew saints to be more dogmatic in the gospel and make them able to withstand the persecution that was going to arise over the Word.

Again, these people, unlike you and me, when they believe the gospel, trouble came. They lost everything, were separated from their families and from their religion and many of them lost their lives over the gospel. We don't have that threat.

Anybody threaten your life over the gospel? I haven't. I have had some men get mad at me over the gospel, but never pick up arms to kill me over it. These guys, these women, they believed the gospel. It cost them everything. And he is telling them. Look, you have got to be dogmatically convinced that this is it before you will stand up for it. Isn't that true? You will stand up. I will tell you what. If you are compromising on the truth, you won't stand up for it. It is impossible.

See, some have left the gospel and some had even went back to self righteous works religion. Some had gone back to the law. And we are going to get to that in a few months. [?] They left and went back to the law. He wrote them off. All dead. They even some had went to the point they openly denied Christ and even called Christ accursed. He says this in the book of Hebrews. It wasn't that they were saved and then lost. They were never truly saved to begin with. They went out from them to make manifest they were not part of them, because if they had part of them what would they have done? They would have stayed.

And, see, in light of these tremendous revelations concerning Christ's person, believers ought to give the more earnest heed. In other words, it ought to... you ought to make it your goal to understand and to abide and continue in these things lest at any time we should let them slip.

Literally the word here, let them slip, it means lest they drift away from it. Paul's thoughts here it is a picture that the apostle presents to us here. It is like a person.

I am not a boater. I am not much of anything outdoors. But it is the picture here of a person who is out in a boat. If you have got a boat you understand something about this and you are coming in toward the dock and, you know, as you get close to the dock you have to estimate your speed or you won't run over something or crash into something and sink your boat. But it is like this person who is coming toward the dock. They fail to estimate the speed of the current because they thought, well, I am going slow enough that I can just reach out with my hand and stop the boat. And so they don't anchor the boat properly as they approach the destination. And since they failed to secure the boat, the boat just slips on by the dock and ultimately is destroyed. That is the idea behind this thing. It just drifted by. And that is what Paul wants these people to avoid. He says, "Don't just let the gospel drift by you, let it pass by you."

See, it would have been a whole lot easier in Jerusalem where these people were at who professed to believe the gospel to just simply accept the status quo and neglect the glorious particulars of God's gospel because if they did what would happen? Everybody would like them. They would get along. But to learn these things and you find this out s you stand fast in in the gospel, you learn these things and you become dogmatic in them and you become uncompromising in them, what happens? People don't like it. They call you hard hearted, mean spirited. Call you a intellectual Pharisee. You have gone further than God's Word says.

We are not going to go one step beyond what God's Word tells us and we are not.

Christ taught his disciples that in John chapter 15 through John chapter 16. However, a fervent, diligent attendance to the gospel in all its particulars which brings on the persecution of the cross is one of the greatest evidences that you are a child of God.

"Blessed are you when men shall persecute you and revile you for my name's sake."

[?] We don't want no persecution.

"Blessed are you when men shall persecute you and revile you and speak all manner of evil against you for righteousness' sake."

Not for your righteousness, as you stand for his righteousness. Do you see that? And a neglect of the gospel and its particulars in order to avoid the issues, bring the persecution of the cross, it is one of the greatest evidences of a lack of true God given faith. Paul will deal with that in chapter two. And he deals with it again in chapter 12.

But here is the second point. Don't neglect this great salvation. Don't neglect it. Don't drift. Don't neglect.



Notice what he says. Again, we read it in verse two through four.

“For if the word spoken by angels was steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward; How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him; God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?”

It is a question mark. And every time you see question that could be answered in the affirmative or the negative in God’s Word, how is it always answered? How shall we escape? Question. Answer is you can’t. You neglect it. You can’t escape.

In these verses we see the certainty of eternal misery that all who remain steadfast would just satisfied with just a head knowledge of the truth.

Now I have got my doctrine right. Well.... The devils believe and they ... they do something most folks don’t even believe that has got some head knowledge. They tremble. They are such professors who were those who refused to go on in the particulars of the gospel that would have exposed that legalistic Jews and held in high esteem as dead works and fruit unto death.

See, they knew these particulars aimed at repentance and would bring the persecution of the cross and such false professors slipped or drifted on by these great God honoring truths. They didn’t believe the gospel savingly. They didn’t. Their faith wasn’t true God given faith. They, in essence, neglected the great salvation that God had provide for them through the Lord Jesus Christ. They liked those professors that stood before our Lord Jesus Christ in John chapter 12 and said, “Many believed on him, but because of fear of man, they refused to confess him and that is why they didn’t want to confess him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue.”

What was most important to them? The praise of men, being a part of the synagogue.

And yet the book of Hebrews calls on us to go where? Go outside the camp to where Christ is.

Look at verse two. Think about what he is telling us in verse two.

Paul had masterfully set forth the mediatorial glory and the saving efficacy of Christ who is greater than all. It is shown them the vivid details of this great salvation and here in verse two he begins to compare the law of God under Moses spoken by angels with a great salvation revealed in the gospel.

You think about it. The moral law pronounced a curse on every sin, did it not? And so the only remedy for the sinner was to be ... was where? It was to be found in the death of a suitable substitute. That is the only way you can satisfy the law. And this word spoken by angels it is that whole Mosaic economy, all that was involved in it, the priesthood, the

tabernacle, all of the sacrifices, all of the rituals. It had to do with all the temporary punishment and temporary forgiveness for the nation of Israel nationally.

And this is the thing we need to remember. Israel couldn't escape the sentence of the law apart from a continual personal participation in the ordinances of the tabernacle. You didn't have a choice when it come to it. You had to participate. And neglect of that tabernacle and neglect of those sacrifices meant there was no remedy for sin of that Israelite and no escape from the curse of the law even in a temporary way.

Now if the Old Testament as an inferior revelation and an inferior covenant that has been superseded by the infinitely greater covenant of the Lord Jesus Christ, his obedience unto death, what is the immediate recompense of neglecting that? You neglected the law, swift dead. And if Christ is infinitely superior and his work of redemption infinitely surpasses it, what about if you neglect it?

I will tell you what. That is thought. He tells us in the first part of verse three:

“How shall we escape?”

Paul comes to the heart of the problem here. If you don't get anything else this morning, here is what I pray you get this. It wasn't ignorance of the gospel he is talking about. And it wasn't open opposition of the gospel that he is talking about here. It is neglect.

Think about that. It was simply flowing on by, sailing on by, drifting away.

Somebody once wrote this. They said, “The world is a battlefield littered with wrecks occasioned by neglect.”

How shall we escape eternal judgment if we neglect so great salvation, the gospel, the Word of God, the meaning of God's grace and salvation and perseverance? See? This salvation is so great because it reveals the wisdom and glory of God in Christ. God himself was in Christ doing what? Reconciling the world unto himself. God has provided everything necessary in the person and work of Christ to remedy every transgression of God's law. I think about it every time I go to our God in prayer. I think about that in Isaiah 43.

“I, even I am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake. Therefore will I remember thy sins no more.”

I tell you. Apart from the truth of the gospel, there is no remedy. There is no hope.

And, listen. We can't escape the wrath of God if we neglect Christ and his gospel. It is impossible. This is what I want to say to you this morning. We ought to be keenly aware and we ought to beware of and avoid anything that would hinder us in having our hearts established with grace. Do you hear me? Anything that would stand, put us contrary to being dogmatic and standing firm in the gospel and following after false gospels. We

ought to avoid and we ought to beware of anything that would keep us from going on into particulars of the gospel aimed at bringing sinners to repentance. And we ought to avoid anything that would cause us to speak peace where there is no ground to do it. We can't neglect God's gospel. We can't neglect Christ. And we ... if you neglect Christ and you neglect...

Neglect means what? Consider the secondary thing. That is what neglect is.

I guess what we are getting to is this. What is the most important thing to you this morning, personally? Make this thing personal. What is the most important thing to you right now? I know natural and I know have natural thoughts.

And you say, "Oh, preacher, you are trying to make it all perfectly holy."

No, we can only be made perfectly holy in Christ. But I am telling you, the child of God their priorities have changed. Now they have.

You can say, "Well, I don't agree with that."

Well, you ain't read this same book I am reading. Is your wife and your children and your job and your health and your home, is it more important than that which would comfort and encourage your soul? Something is wrong.

And so now you sound like works salvation. No, I don't. You are listening with the wrong ears. I am telling you. Think about our Lord Jesus Christ's words. Take his words, not Richard Wurmser's words.

"If any man love father, mother, brother, sister more than me, not worthy of me."

I am telling you. The gospel is the number one priority of the child of God. It better be.

Now I know there is going to be slippage in there. We are going to fall short and we are not going to put it first, but it is your responsibility and it is my responsibility to make it the priority of my life.

I told the min the Sunday school hour this morning. How much time, seriously, have you spent reading this book? Let's make it simple, since you first claimed to believe the gospel. How much time have you spent in this book? How much this week have you spent in true prayer seeking God's face, seeking his comfort, seeking his... asking him, "Lord, teach me thy will and teach me thy way"? Have you done that this week?

I tell you what. People let anything and everything come between them and the worship of God. It is just wrong. I know you got to work sometimes. I understand that. I know you take vacation. I would like to take vacation, too. I know I am your pastor and I don't get to take them and go away with my wife. That is fine. I have been. I am comfortable with that.

But, folks, you can't be on a permanent vacation.

I always think about that guy down there at Eager Avenue, that guy that always used to come one time a year to Eager Avenue and he would walk in the door and Bill would meet him at the back door and he would shake Bill's hand.

I love this gospel. I am grateful for this gospel. I am thankful for this gospel. One time a year? Treat your wife that way. Treat your husband. Don't ever speak to your kids ever again, for a year. I tell you, go a week and don't speak to your wife and see where that will get you. Huh? Let's just be reasonable and rationale.

This gospel is... it either is or it isn't. This is our... folks, this is all you got.

You say, "Well, you don't understand my life."

I do understand your life, because I am life, too. Walking in a body of flesh just like you with same sentiments just like you. I let... I have trouble praying. I have trouble giving. I have trouble loving. I have trouble doing all those things. But, folks, I still try, don't you?

I have tried this week to love people and there are some of them that are hard to love and I know I am hard to love, too. I have tried to read this book. I have tried to pray. A lot of it is tries. [?]

But, folks, I tell you. You don't ever crack this book, you don't ever read about him and you don't ever spend time in prayer with him and you avoid the worship of God. I don't know any other way to say than something is wrong.

I tell you. We can't neglect. I tell you, this is the thing. You neglect Christ and his gospel, you are showing contempt for God's love for you. We love him. Hear me? We love him, why? Because he first love us. And if you claim you love him, you are going to love them. And you are? And, see, that inward principle of grace, it doesn't apart from the means.

If you are discouraged and you are troubled it is because you are not using the means. You are not studying to show yourself approved unto God a workman that needeth not to be ashamed. All the means that glorify God, they exalt Christ and they exclude boasting. So neglect the gospel of grace gives evidence of the absence of that inward principle of grace and absence of the sense of the value of the person of Christ.

To you therefore who believe, listen to this language. To you therefore who believe, 1 Peter chapter verse seven, he is precious.

Is he precious to you?

My wife and my children and my daughter-in-law and my family is precious to me. I try as best as I can of the last 32 years and from my children's life and now that we have our daughter-in-law, I would do anything and everything for her, because I love them and they are mine. But he is mine, too and [?] and if I love him, if you love me, keep my commandments.

We do love him. It is that way and it is an imperfect love. I thank God you can't see my heart and I know you thank God I can't see yours either, huh? I would hate for that. God is so merciful and gracious to us to keep us hidden. I tell that... I probably wouldn't want to know your thoughts about me this morning and you probably wouldn't want to know my thoughts about you either.

We are so torn. But I tell you what. We are so driven. I tell you. Those who neglect, they will perish, now they will. God is a just God and he that believeth will be damned. He that believeth not will be saved. He that believeth will be saved. It is a question always comes back to this.

“How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation?”

The answer is you can't. The gospel ... the apostle that heard the Lord Jesus Christ preach the gospel himself and Christ preached a message of salvation conditioned on him and they themselves turned around and preached that same gospel and God confirmed that what they did was of God by those miracles. So this gospel that was spoken by Christ, it was confirmed by the apostles. It was established and endorsed by the Father through the Holy Spirit when he gave these apostles great gifts and miraculous manifestations of the Holy Spirit. In light of that he tells us how shall you escape the judgment and wrath of God if you are indifferent to the gospel? Just indifferent.

Don't... believers... justify... If you have got a take it or leave it toward the gospel I am going to just be as frank with you as I can. It is take it or leave it, you don't know the gospel.

You say, “Well, I don't believe that.”

Well, I am telling you. If it is a take it or leave it, if we are just here for when you have just got time, examine yourself. You don't pick up this book through the week, examine yourself.

You say, “That sounds like work salvation to me.”

It is not. It is the truth and the reality of what the gospel does and how it effects men and women's lives. These professing believers in Jerusalem couldn't escape and I am going to tell you what. You can't either.

How shall you escape if you neglect so great salvation? Don't neglect it. I tell you. It is an important thing. It is the most important thing to us. I tell you, it is the only thing. My

love for my wife and my love for you, it ain't going to affect anything. Pardon the bad English when it comes to my eternal security. Pam can't help me when it comes to getting me into heaven. Nor can any of you. The only thing that can get me in was his accomplished work. And if I know it and if he has revealed to my heart and to my mind and my understanding what he has delivered me from, I will be grateful and I will be gracious. I am going to have faults. But I will be grateful to him for it and I will evidence it by my using the means that he has graciously given me to grow and mature and be comforted and encouraged in this most holy faith.

Let's stand together and we will be dismissed. I appreciate your presence. The Lord bless you and keep you till we see you next Lord's Day.

Paul, would you dismiss us, please?