

“1 ¶ 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. 2 For if the word spoken by angels was steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward; 3 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*; 4 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?” (Heb 2:1-4)

We saw in the first chapter that Jesus is greater than the angels, and is to be accorded more honor and praise they receive. The words of all creatures are not equal, and certainly the words of creatures are not equal to the words of God. Jesus is greater than the greatest of the angels, because He is the Son of God, heir of the Father in heaven and worthy of divine worship, worthy to sit on the throne of God Himself, judging the world, the Creator of all things, immutable in His own Being, the Second Person of the Holy Trinity.

Because of this, the Lord Jesus can do what no Angel can do: He can forgive sins, He can give you a new heart, and He will judge the world at the last day, when all nations shall be gathered before Him. He knows the Father fully, for He alone can behold the face of God in all His glory and splendor. Moses saw only God’s hinder parts, and Moses had to veil his face because a veil was on the hearts of Israel so that they could not look upon even this limited glory. Angel cover their faces with their wings, but Jesus looks will full understanding and glory in the face of His Father and we stand in Him. The eyes of the Lord, therefore, are over the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayers, and prayers are made in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. Jesus is, therefore, the last word for the last days. No angels will now bring messages from God, for God has sent His Son to fully declare His sovereign will: “This is my beloved Son; hear ye him,” is the message of the Father.”

The writer begins the application of the greater majesty in chapter 2, in the four verses that we read.

- I. All words of Scripture are the words of God, but some words are more important than others.
  - A. The words of Christ are of greater weight than the words of angels. This is the foundation of the argument.
  - B. We ought to give “more earnest heed to the words of Christ than to the words of angels, and we must not let them slip
    1. “more earnest” = “more abundance” A great abundance
    2. “heed” = “attention” Give a great deal of attention. You better listen up. This is more important than what any of the angels said. This is the message sent by God by His Only Begotten Son. Listen up.
    3. The things which we have heard: see verse 3,4: The things are the things spoken by Christ and the apostles.
    4. This does not devalue the message of the angels, for they are worthy and blessed messengers and their words are to be given great weight; in fact the zeal of the faithful in the OT are spurs to our attention: we must make them our examples and surpass them in zeal and love, for we have the words of the Son of God.
      - a. Their words were steadfast—certain and sure.
      - b. The punishments were certain, often swift and devastating.
  - C. A rhetoric question: “How shall we escape?” The answer is clear. Look at the punishments that came upon those who did not heed the warnings of the angels. What then will happen if we do not hear the warnings of the Son of God?
    1. The message of the Son of God included signs and wonders, and the confirmation of the messengers that He trained and sent forth: the apostles and prophets of that first generation, whose messages were also confirmed by signs and wonders, including gifts of the Holy Ghost, which are no longer necessary, no more than the words given to Moses needed to be confirmed by miracles to every generation that followed.
    2. Notice: it “was confirmed.” By the time Hebrews was written, the signs had already been removed, for the word was already confirmed and established by the power of God. This verse does not necessarily mean that Paul is not the writer of Hebrews and the old Belgic may have it right. At this late date, if these are indeed the words of Paul, it was no longer necessary for him to defend his apostleship, but he could place himself among all the believers. We do know that by the time of the martyrdom of both Paul and Peter the gospel was well established among the churches.
    3. The first generation Hebrew, then, had an important decision to make and it will be impressed upon him again and again in this great book. Are you going to cling to those things which have passed away because the Messiah has come? Or are you going to cling to that which is dead and lifeless? How will you escape if you do that? Your fathers despised angels and perished; will you escape if you despise the Son of God? Of course not.

## II. Let us make application to ourselves.

## A. First, the words.

1. “Neglect” means to “make light of.” This was literally fulfilled Mt 27:29 “And when they had platted a crown of thorns, they put it upon his head, and a reed in his right hand: and they bowed the knee before him, and mocked him, saying, Hail, King of the Jews!”
2. Mockery is a great sin—to make fun of righteousness and mock virtue and godliness will not be ignored. A curse was placed upon those who mocked their fathers and mothers and the servants of the Lord, and God will certain bring retribution on those who do such. Matt. 22:1 “made light of.”
3. This sin here is not opposing, but making light of; ignoring, setting it aside as no value. If you set light by the messenger, then you have set light by the message.
4. “Let them slip” slide by. This is a compound word and can involve either of two figures of speech. It literally means to “flow by” or to “flow out of.”
  - a. If we take the second idea, then the figure is to let the words run out of our minds like out of a leaky vessel. That is certain fitting, and is used in the Bible, for God said that Israel used broken cisterns that could no water, when they forsook Him, the fountain of living water. If we do not give great heed, we will forget, and the great truths will leak out of our minds. That is why we must review and hear again and consider over and over the same things, until they become habitual and firmly fixed.
  - b. If we take the first idea, the meaning is the same, but the figure is different: the word would mean “to flow by” as water flowing in a stream and you drift by the things on the shore; or the things on the shore seem to drift by you, and you soon forget what you just saw.
  - c. The mind must be engaged: you and I are not to neglect, or esteem lightly the things of the Gospel.
    - (1). Jude 1:17 But, beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ;
    - (2). 2Ti 2:8 Remember that Jesus Christ of the seed of David was raised from the dead according to my gospel:
    - (3). 2Th 2:5 Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?
    - (4). Ac 20:31 Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears.
    - (5). Mal 4:4 Remember ye the law of Moses my servant, which I commanded unto him in Horeb for all Israel, with the statutes and judgments. The last words of the Old Testament.
    - (6). Remember, remember, remember.
    - (7). Make use of time. See “<sup>10</sup> The days of our years *are* threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength *they be* fourscore years, yet *is* their strength labor and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away. <sup>11</sup> Who knoweth the power of thine anger? even according to thy fear, *so is* thy wrath. <sup>12</sup> So teach *us* to number our days, that we may apply *our* hearts unto wisdom.” (Ps 90:10-12)
      - (a). Everyone receives the same number of hours in every day.
      - (b). How valuable is your time? It depends on the use that you make of it. Would you throw money away? Time is more valuable than money. When people say “I have no time,” they are not making a time statement, they are making a value statement. You spend time on what you value. I spend time on what I value.
      - (c). Hence, the use of time is the great measuring stick on what you value, on the things that are important to you; your idols and your value system.

Summary: Neglecting means not giving time; not fastening your attention; letting your attention wander to other ways and other things. We are to focus our attention and our time, using them wisely. As the apostle put it in Ephesians 4:14: “That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; but speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him to all things, which is the head, even Christ....”

Neglect not: that means to use your time wisely. According to the old law, at least one/seventh of Israel’s time was to be spent in the improvement of their understanding of the law and the prophets. One day in seven, and when you add in the special feast days and holy days and Sabbath years it becomes more than that. But even this was not the final rule for Israel, for we have the instructions from the wise man of Psalm 1: “Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the

ungodly, nor standing in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful; but his delight is in the law of the Lord and in this law doth he meditate day and night.” May it be so with us always. Amen and Amen.