

## Heb. 2:1-4 "Pay Closer Attention"

**For the Children:** When you trip over something you often think to yourself, "I wish I'd been paying better attention!" It's a pity that it often takes a painful accident to remind us to pay attention. Because the Lord loves His children, He wants us to learn to pay attention to His Word before we run into trouble. If you ignore His Word, sooner or later you will run into big trouble. The time to pay attention to God's Word is now, before there is a problem. **Questions:** How can you pay better attention to the Bible? In what way is the new covenant better than the old? If covenant-children are already saved through the Lord Jesus, why do they need to bother about studying His Word?

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### Introduction:

#### First Point: The Importance of God's Word

- 1) The Word Through Angels: The "Word spoken through angels" is the OT, especially the Law (Acts. 7:53, Gal. 3:19). Since angels were involved in its delivery, and they are God's messengers, the OT is extremely important. As God's Word, it was unalterable by man. Breaking it resulted in just penalties, including the death-penalty.
- 2) The Word of Christ: In addition to Law, the OT also contained promises and "types" that had to be taken just as seriously. The NT proclaims those things fulfilled through the coming of Christ. Christ Himself first brought that NT Word. He is superior to angels (Heb. 1); the revelation through Him is also superior, in the sense that it is the fulfilment of the OT and comes from One in whom is all the fullness of deity. He also instructed the apostles, who were eyewitnesses to whom God testified by enabling them to perform signs and wonders. He also associated the out-pouring of the Spirit and His gifts with their ministry. If we must take the OT seriously, how much more the whole Bible. If there were just penalties for ignoring God's Word in the OT, how much more for ignoring the Lord Jesus and the Gospel of salvation in the completed Bible?
- 3) Paying Close Attention: Therefore, we are to pay even closer attention to the Bible than did the OT saints. Dt. 6:7-9 shows that we are to teach our children the importance of this close attention, as we surround them with God's Word as much as possible,

#### Second Point: The Warning for Covenant Members

- 1) The New Covenant Is also a "Mixed Bag": A common Baptist view is that membership in the old covenant was on a physical basis (a Jewish descent) and that it was therefore necessary to apply covenant curses to those who rebelled; whereas the new covenant only contains those who are born again, who will not need to be cut off and have such curses applied. The reality, though, is that there is an even more severe punishment for those who break the new covenant. The fact that it is possible to be a covenant-member but then to break it and be cut off is contained in the warnings of Heb. 2:1-4, 4:11, ch. 6 etc. Consider also the Parable of the Wheat and tares in Mt. 13:24f.
- 2) The Purpose of Such Warnings: These warnings are given to the members of the new covenant so that those who truly believe may be goaded to pay much closer attention to God's Word. They are also given to stand as a testimony against those who do not truly believe and who ignore God's Word. Some may wake up and begin to listen, by God's grace. No one will be able to say that they were never warned!
- 3) The Status of Covenant Children: Children of believers are not excluded from the covenant, even if they are not yet born again. For the new covenant is not only for those who already believe. It is for them and their children. The comfort to believing parents is that God loves all His covenant people, including the children. We have no more reason to be fearful for our children than for ourselves. However, this is not a guarantee that the children will be preserved even if they disregard God's Word. They, like the adults, need to be taught the importance of paying even closer attention to God's Word.

### Conclusion:

