

Pay Attention to Jesus

Hebrews 2:1-4

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Background

It's Labor Day weekend, the traditional end of summer and start of a new school year. But many students have been back in class for two weeks already. We hope that they are learning again how to pay attention in class. Perhaps their teachers have given a pep talk: "You must pay the most careful attention to what you hear else..." An exhortation to listen and a warning of the consequences for not doing so: "...else you'll fail the test, your GPA will suffer, and you won't get into your choice of school." The preacher to the Hebrews does a similar thing. After presenting the excellence of the Son in whom God has spoken, he exhorts and warns: "We must pay most careful attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away." Throughout his sermon he urges us to pay attention to Jesus.

Sermon Texts: Heb 2:1-4 (NIV)

***2** ¹We must pay the most careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away. ²For since the message spoken through angels was binding, and every violation and disobedience received its just punishment, ³how shall we escape if we ignore so great a salvation? This salvation, which was first announced by the Lord, was confirmed to us by those who heard him. ⁴God also testified to it by signs, wonders and various miracles, and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.*

Discussion Questions

1. Preparation

- What is one thing you hoped to talk about today/tonight?
- What question(s) did you come away with from the sermon?
- As you reflect on this sermon, what stands out to you the most? Why?

2. Sunday questions

- a. "We love what we pay attention to." When you think about the previous week, write down the things you paid attention to. What does this tell you about what you love?
- b. Can you name the reasons why you attend church on Sunday mornings? Are you drawing nearer to God by attending? Why or why not?
- c. This text proves to be an inter-generational text (v 3). Are you involved in passing on the faith to the next generation? Why or why not?
- d. The great gift we have is the Holy Spirit. How much are you aware of the Holy Spirit working in your life. Can you give examples?
- e. How do you typically "pay attention" to Jesus in your life?