



Don't Drift Away!

Daniel 7:13-14 Hebrews 2:1-4 John 1:1-5, 14-18

June 21, 2020

Pastor Dave Bolte

The first chapter of the book of Hebrews is one of the grandest and most majestic chapters in all of Scripture. It is high Christology, where Jesus is presented as the **last, great, & final Prophet of God**, He is the **Son of God**, the **Heir of all things**, the **Creator of the universe**, the **Radiance of God's glory**, the **Image of God**, He **Sustains all things** by His powerful Word, He is the One who has **made purification for our sins** by His death on the cross, and the One who **sits at the right hand of God the Father** in Heaven! He is given a **Name that is above every name**: He is above all the angels, as He is **Son, God** and **Lord** of all. All of this is in just 14 verses of chapter 1 of the Book of Hebrews!! Not only is chapter 1 grand and majestic, **but it is God teaching us the truth about His Son, Jesus.**

Immediately after this grand and majestic chapter 1 --> there is a speed bump – it's more like a brick wall! Everything comes to a crashing halt as Chapter 2 begins: Chapter 2 begins with an **Apostasy¹ warning!**

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

This is both an **encouragement** and **WARNING**; The Gospel Good News about Jesus is a **Big Deal** – and how you listen to it has eternal consequences.

We are to pay "ever increasing attention" to the Gospel.

The next couple verses teach us the Gospel of the Lord Jesus is greater than **everything** in the Old Testament: it is greater than Moses, it is greater than the Exodus and all the events at Mount Sinai, it is greater than the Ten Commandments, and it's greater than the Temple, it's Priests, it's rituals, and all of it's sacrifices.

¹ **Apostasy** The Greek word: ἀποστασία, meaning 'a defection or revolt', (from ἀπό, 'away, apart', and στάσις, 'stand, standing'). "Apostasy" means "to stand apart; to fall away -- to defect from Christ and His Word". Apostasy is when believers "fall away" from the faith and lose eternal life. One who commits apostasy is known as an *apostate*.

The Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ is a **Big Deal!** The Gospel Good News is so important because it focuses on Jesus, the Savior that God sent for you. He sacrificed His life on a cross, He was buried, and He rose from the dead on the Third Day so that you can have eternal salvation as a free gift. All the blessings of salvation are now yours because of Him. Without Him, you would die in your sins. In Him, you belong to God and live in His Kingdom! Only in Christ do you find the love, grace, mercy and kindness of God. There is no other place. **This is much greater than anything in the Old Testament!** The Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ is a **Big Deal!**

**You are to pay "ever increasing attention"
to the Gospel throughout your life!**

This is so important that God has **validated** the Gospel in *three different ways* so you can be **absolutely certain** that it is true and that it is for you.

It was *declared at first* by the Lord, and it was *attested to us* by those who heard, while God also bore *witness* by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will. Hebrews 2:3-4

The **first** validation of the Gospel is by the Lord Jesus Himself. His **Words** and His **miracles** prove that He is the Son of God, the Savior of the world, the One God sent for you, The One who gives life to the world!

The **second** confirmation that the gospel is true is from the **eye witnesses**: *that is*, **the Apostles** of the Lord Jesus. They too preached the Word and worked miracles. They were inspired by the Holy Spirit to write the books of the New Testament for us. They are eye witnesses; and they bear witness that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, the Savior of the world, and that by believing in Him you have eternal life.

The **third** proof is the **Holy Spirit** Himself. The Holy Spirit works through the words of Jesus and His Apostles to create faith in your heart. As the Holy Spirit convicts you of your sin He also comforts you with your Savior. He creates the faith so that you know, believe, and confess that Jesus died on the cross for you, and rose from the dead, to give you forgiveness, life,

and salvation. *The Holy Spirit gives you the **conviction and confidence** that the Gospel is true; and it is for you!* The Holy Spirit Himself confirms that the gospel is true.

Christ, His Apostles, & the Holy Spirit validate the Gospel.

This gives you rock solid trust and confidence in Jesus, the Son of God, our Lord and Savior. This is the **encouragement** in these verses; trust Christ! Believe He is the Savior! Know why you believe what you do! And be ever growing in your faith and knowledge of the truths of Scripture!

The Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ is a **Big Deal! It is the most important thing in our lives!**

But this is where the **WARNING** comes in; it's a strong warning against *Apostasy*. *You can fall away from the faith if you do not pay attention to the Gospel and you do not continually learn about Christ and His Word.*

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

You can **drift away** from the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ²! The word **drift away** is a nautical term that describes an unanchored boat that drifts away from a dock. *The nuance with this term is that it happens slowly and quietly.*

That is how many people lose their faith. *Slowly and quietly* they drift away from the Lord Jesus and His Word. They do not pay attention to it, nor are they are not growing in it. They neither listen, read, nor study the Bible. They do not taking it seriously. They start to consider worship an *optional activity*. It can even happen while you're sitting here in church. You might be attending, but you're not paying attention; you are not engaged; you are not eager to grow and learn; you don't apply the truths of God's Law nor His Gospel to your life. Essentially you are just going to the motions . . . you are slowly and quietly drifting away.

² The Bible **does NOT teach** "*once saved, always saved*". "No one should think that, because he is in faith today and thereby assured of his election, that he may now discard the gospel, lose faith, live in sin, and still regard himself as one of the Elect who will unfailingly be saved." Koehler, *A Summary of Christian Doctrine*, p.187

Drifting away from the faith is a real danger with eternal consequences.

The Book of Hebrews begins with such a majestic first chapter, but it immediately turns to this warning in chapter two. The Gospel is a **Big Deal!** It is the most important thing in your life! *You are to be ever increasing in your knowledge and understanding of Christ and His word!* Here at Trinity, we frequently use the terms **Biblically literate and doctrinally sound** --- those phrases are based on verses like this!

Listen to the warning today, examine your life, and make sure that you are not “**drifting away**” from Christ and His Word. If you are, then repent, confess it to God, and be renewed in your faith through the forgiveness of your sins. God has not moved; it’s you who “**drifted away**”! Come back and be forgiven and renewed in Christ’s love and mercy for you!

This passage clearly teaches us that God’s will is that you are *ever growing* in faith and knowledge; that you *pay attention* whenever you hear the Gospel. **There is no promise that you will ever hear the Gospel again.** *This might be the last time you ever hear the Gospel.* That is why you must pay careful attention whenever you hear it. Hebrews 2 teaches us that you can lose your faith; you can **drift away**, *slowly and quietly*, from the Lord Jesus Christ. **Don’t let that happen to you!**

Today we heard both an *encouragement* and **WARNING** from the Book of Hebrews. The Gospel Good News about Jesus is a **Big Deal** – and how you listen to it has eternal consequences.

Be sure that you are paying “*ever increasing attention*” to the Gospel throughout your life! And always be careful, and aware, so that you do not *slowly and quietly drift away* from the Lord Jesus and His Word.

Amen!