

Hebrews 2:1-5

Danger of Drifting

- God has no greater Messenger than His Son and has no further message beyond the Gospel
- the author gives warning here for the readers to give heed to Christ's message as He is superior to all other "messengers" of God

vs.1- "Therefore"- means a continuation from the previous chapter

- *since its Christ on the right hand of the Father (1:13) and angels are servants (1:14) we ought to give the more earnest heed

(The word "therefore" also connects doctrine to practice)

- "more earnest heed"- to give greater attention to, to join to something

- *the word "heed" (prosecho) has a nautical meaning as to bring a ship to harbor

- "slip"- (pararrhueo) to glide past or by, to drift (this term also has nautical origin)

- *the idea of this verse is to be secured to the truth of the Gospel and be careful not to drift from the only harbor of salvation

- *What happens to a drifting ship? 1- sinks in a storm 2- runs aground (stuck and can't get free) 3- runs into rocks (destroys the vessel completely)

vs.2- angels were instruments used of God to bring the Law to His people

(Deut.33:2, Ps.68:17, Acts 7:53, Gal.3:19)

- "steadfast"- (bebaios) stable, firm, sure

- "transgression"- (parabasis) a disregard for boundaries

- "disobedience"- (parakoe) a hearing amiss, to close the ear

- *transgressions are the sins of commission and disobedience is the sin of omission

(Both are willful acts and must receive a recompense or wage as they are all sins)

vs.3- "How shall we escape"- meaning "How can we get clear of judgment?"

- "neglect"- (ameleo) to be careless, to ignore, to know but fail to do

Truth- if disobedience in the old covenant brought swift judgment, how much more severe will the consequences be for disobedience and neglect to the new covenant?

(The new covenant is brought to man by Christ and is also mediated by Him, who is superior)

- * the message and Messenger of the new covenant is far greater than that of the old covenant

- "Lord"- (kurios) same word in 1:10 - meaning God the Messiah

- "by those who heard Him"- the writer of this book was a person who had been won to the Lord by an apostle (this phrase shows the success of evangelism)

vs.4- "signs and wonders"- these supernatural powers given to the apostles, who were directly called by Jesus, were for the confirmation of the Gospel of Christ

- *Notice the author states that these signs and wonders were given to the apostles and never suggests that his readers possess these things

- *the apostles could heal (Acts 3:1-9) they could raise from the dead (Acts 9:36-42, 20:7-12) they could cast out demons (Acts 16:16-18)

Truth- many people try to claim to possess apostolic gifts today such as tongues

vs.5- this verse begins a new challenge- How could Christ be superior to the angels if He became a man and partook of death?

- "put in subjection"- (hupotasso) a military term meaning to arrange in fashion under a leader
- the angels will not be in authority in the world to come- the Messianic Kingdom

- *angels have been given authority to minister judgment on man in the past

(Examples- Sodom- Gen.19:13, Israel- II Sam.24:15-17, kings- Acts 12:23)

- *but they will have no authority to do so in the Millennial Kingdom

- in fact, as we reign with Christ (Rev.20:6) we are put in a position to judge angels (I Cor.6:1-3)