

# How Great Our Salvation

## Hebrews 2:1-4 – August 29

### INTRODUCTION:

- DISCUSS: What are some things that we take for granted? *Allow for some discussion...*
- Far too many Christians today take their redemption for granted. Far too many Christians are focused on the problems of today and have forgotten what God has done for them and what He will be doing in the days to come.
- Hebrews 2 explains just how great our salvation is in Jesus Christ.

### BIBLE STUDY: Read Hebrews 2:1-4

*In these four brief verses, we are reminded of the greatness of our salvation. The author exhorts us to give “earnest heed” to the message which we have all heard and received – the message of the Gospel.*

1. The Gospel Message is Great in its Method
  - a. The message was “confirmed” to us.
    - i. The Greek term translated “confirmed” was a legal term used to validate matters in a court of law. It bore the idea of certainty.
    - i. How was the Gospel confirmed? Initially, the Gospel was confirmed by Christ as it “first began to be spoken by the Lord.”
  - b. Next, the Apostles substantiated the message.
    - i. The apostles were the first-hand witnesses to the Lord Jesus and His salvation work.
    - ii. The message was “confirmed unto us by them that heard Him” (1 John 1:1-2).
    - iii. Q: How important is an eye witness?
  - c. Furthermore, the Father approved the message.
    - i. How did God do this? Through giving “signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will.”
    - ii. We see this taking place through the apostles in the book of Acts.
2. The Gospel Message is Great in its Meaning.
  - a. The author describes the Gospel as “so” great a salvation.
  - b. The plan was sovereignly designed by God Himself.
    - i. No human being could have possibly created the idea of the Gospel.
    - ii. As we saw in recent lessons, the Gospel was God’s idea! Without God taking the initiative in His redemptive work we would all be lost.
    - iii. The cost of the plan was the blood of Jesus Christ (Rev. 1:5).
    - iv. The scope of the plan is sweeping, including the entire world (John 3:16), and its power is breath-taking (Romans 1:16).
  - c. Not only is our salvation great, our salvation is also serious (vv. 2-3a).
    - i. The author asks a stirring rhetorical question, which has profound Gospel implications, “How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation?”
    - ii. The author’s obvious answer to his own question is, no escape exists apart from Jesus Christ. *(We will come back to this in the application.)*
3. The Gospel Message is Sufficient.
  - a. Our salvation is not only great and serious, it is also complete in Him.
  - b. The same Gospel that saves is powerful enough to mature the believer in every aspect of life.

- c. Believers should give “the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard,” lest we allow them to “slip” (v. 1).
  - i. The term translated “slip” carries the idea of drifting away as one might picture a log in a river drifting down stream.
  - ii. Or, another image might be a precious ring slipping off one’s finger.
- d. We are reminded of 2 Timothy 3:17 – “thoroughly furnished unto ALL good works.” God’s Word is sufficient for everything we will face in our time in this world.
- e. 2 Peter 1:3 – God has “given us all things that pertain to life and Godliness.” Everything we need is found in those “great and precious promises” (vs. 4).
- f. The point the author is making concerns the danger we all face. The full potential we have in Christ points to a fundamental maturity after which all believers must strive.
- g. In addition, not only does the author point to the danger we all face, he also points to the duty we all must embrace. We must give “earnest heed to the things which we have heard.”
  - i. Believers must pay close attention to God’s voice as He speaks.
  - ii. Primarily, He speaks to us through His Word.
  - iii. This means that we should take advantage of every opportunity to learn what the Bible teaches concerning every sphere of life.

APPLICATION: The author’s question haunts us: how shall any escape if he or she neglects so great a salvation as found in Jesus Christ?

- The Greek term translated “neglect” means “to be careless,” “unconcerned,” or “indifferent.” Some people have the grossly mistaken idea that as long as one is “saved” it makes no difference how one lives. This is wrong thinking!
- Just because one is saved, it does not follow that one may lead any kind of moral or immoral life. Sin is no less serious after a person is saved than before.
- In fact, those who insist on living in known sin after they make a profession of faith may be doing nothing more or less than demonstrating they made a false profession (1 Jn. 2).
- If we are saved, how do we “neglect” our salvation?
- How do we give “earnest heed to the things which we have heard?”
- Are you growing into spiritual maturity, or are you still a babe in Christ?