

## Highlights of Hebrews 1 - 2:1-4

Hebrews begins by telling us that God, at various times, spoke to us by the prophets but now He speaks to us by His Son. We then are given some reasons for Jesus' authority - sort of His credentials: He is God's son, the heir of all things, the creator of the worlds, the brightness of God's glory, the express image of God, who upholds all things by the power of His word because He alone died for our sins and now sits at the right hand of God.

The author then moves on to the relationship and position of Jesus and the angels. Remember, angels were important to the Jews because thousands of angels assisted in the giving of the law on Mt. Sinai. However, the author showed Jesus was greater than the angels by quoting seven scriptures from the Old Testament as proof of the superiority of Christ:

1. He is the Son, with a better name and inheritance - while angels were collectively referred to as sons of God, only Jesus was the Son
2. He is the firstborn and is worshipped by the angels; if He was their equal, they would not be worshipping Him
3. He created the angels - so he is the Creator and they are His creation
4. He is God enthroned and will reign forever
5. He loved righteousness and hated iniquity in a way angels cannot do
6. He is the creator who made heaven and earth
7. He is sovereign; the world will end but He will never end; only He is worthy to sit at the right hand of God, the Father
8. Angels are the ministering spirits who serve the Lord seated on the throne; they also minister to the "heirs of salvation" through faith in Christ - which is us!

All of these Old Testament quotations proved that Jesus Christ was greater than the angels, which means He is also greater than the law that the angels helped to deliver; actually Jesus fulfilled the law. There should be no doubt as to the uniqueness of Jesus or of His superiority to the angels.

Chapter 2 presents the first of five warnings, or admonitions found in Hebrews. The purpose of these warnings is to encourage all readers to pay attention to God's word and obey it. We are warned here not to "drift away." He is not talking about a U-Turn where someone turns their back and walks away from Christ. He is talking about a slow, steady, imperceptible drift as a result of paying no attention. We get lazy about reading God's word. We get lazy about

spending time in prayer. We get lazy about gathering together for worship. We start to compromise a little. The things of the world gradually demand more of our time and attention and before you know it we have drifted away from the Lord. It is easy to drift with the current but it is difficult to return against the tide. That's why we must pay attention and keep from drifting.

During the Old Testament days, people who did not heed the word were sometimes punished. That word was given by angels, so how much greater responsibility do we have today since we received the word from Jesus? We often neglect our salvation by taking it for granted. We think that as believers "under grace" we can escape the chastening hand of God that was so evident "under the law." However, God is the same yesterday, today, and forever. He still chastens us and allows us to reap what we have sown when we do not heed His word. We cause ourself a lot of unneeded grief by disobeying. The author encourages us to pay attention to the great salvation we have received from the Lord; it was purchased with such a great price. He's really telling us: "Get with it! Don't be negligent! Keep your eyes on Jesus! Run the race set before you and receive the prize!"