

# Hebrews 2:1-4 – Don't be complacent – James Farrer – 08 June 2014

## 1. Strong Focus

*"We must pay the most careful attention...to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away" (v1).*

Follows chapter 1, that **Jesus is better** – the son of God, God himself, provided purification for sins, the Creator and to be worshipped.

In Chapter 2 we finally get an instruction – To hear, to listen and to understand – to pay attention.

To pay attention to what...that Jesus is better – better than anything else we could find to commit and dedicate our lives to. It's about putting him first and living for him rather than drifting into living for ourselves.

What does drifting look like?

- Isolation from other Christians, making connecting less of a priority
- Obedience becomes joyless and mechanical
- Have beliefs but loss of relationship and intimacy – the fact we can talk to him, pray to him, ask him to help us, to be with us and to know his love.

Let's encourage one another to stay anchored to the truth – Jesus is better so let's make much of him in our lives

## 2. Safety Warning

Jesus didn't just come to tell us how to live, he came to save lives. He came to save every single one of us.

Salvation by its very definition means being saved from something! Saved from separation from God and eternity without Him. Is that really fair? That a loving God would punish us?

Have you ever done something you regret or wouldn't want anyone to know about?

I would think all of us have – so if you haven't lived up to your own standard, perhaps you haven't lived up to God's standard either?

But here's the good news – God doesn't want anyone to experience separation from him.

**That's what makes this salvation great!**

God loves us. God cares about us. We can know his friendship, fellowship and relationship

Salvation is a free gift given by the sacrifice of Jesus and is available for everyone

God meets our needs – if you're lonely, Jesus will be your friend. If you're afraid, then he will be your comfort. But what about those who aren't lonely or afraid? They still need the safety warning – to accept this great salvation.

## 3. Reliable Witness

*"This salvation, which was first announced by the Lord, was confirmed to us by those who heard him." (v3b)*

God wants to give people confidence to believe and help us to preach and proclaim this great salvation that Jesus offers.

- God spoke it to us
- "...first announced by the Lord," – during Jesus's earthly life
- People close to Jesus witnessed it
- *"...gifts...distributed according to his will." (v4)* – God works through us to demonstrate his power & glory

And this is how it all connects together – fix your thoughts on Jesus – is it worth it, is it true, is this warning real?

## Conclusion

Have a strong focus on Jesus and show others this great salvation!

*Mark 2:17 "On hearing this, Jesus said to them, 'It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners'"*

*John 6:40 "For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day."*

**UP** – *"We must pay the most careful attention...to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away."*

What is it that we need to *'pay the most careful attention to?'*

**IN** – How can we do this practically and encourage others similarly?

**OUT** – *Mark 2:17 "On hearing this, Jesus said to them, 'It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners'"*. How should this encourage urgency in how we approach evangelism?