

**Christ is Superior to the Angels**  
**Hebrews 2:1**  
**Part Six**

We once again return back to our study of Hebrews where an unknown author, in an attempt to strengthen the faith of a group struggling Hebrew Christians living in Rome, wrote to them about the superiority of Christ.

So how did the author see Christ as superior? First of all, the author of the Book of Hebrews saw Christ as superior to the Old Testament prophets in Hebrew 1:1-4.

So how else did the author of Hebrews see Christ as superior? The author of Hebrews saw Christ as superior to the angels in Hebrews 1:5-2:18. This is the section we are presently studying, and we have broken this very large section into four parts.

We have now completed our examination of that first part, where the author of Hebrews explained Christ's superiority to the angels in Hebrews 1:5-14. So, what did the author explain within these verses?

The author of Hebrews, quoting the Old Testament, explained that Christ alone should be considered uniquely God's Son and thus superior to all others including the angels (Hebrews 1:5). We saw this in **Hebrews 1:5.**

The author of Hebrews, quoting the Old Testament, explained that because Christ was being worshipped and served by angels, He should be considered superior to all others including the angels (Hebrews 1:6-7). We saw this in **Hebrews 1:6-7.**

The author of Hebrews, quoting the Old Testament, explained that because Christ is eternal, Christ should be considered superior to all others including the angels (Hebrews 1:8-12). We saw this in **Hebrews 1:8-12.** And finally last week we saw this.

The author of Hebrews, quoting the Old Testament, explained that because Christ is seated at God's right hand, He is superior to all others including the angels (Hebrews 1:13-14).

So after the author of Hebrews had explained the superiority of Christ in **Hebrews 1:5-14**, what did he do next? After the author had explained the superiority of Christ, he then sounded a warning (Hebrews 2:1-4).

So now let me read for you **Hebrews 2:1-4** and see if this is not so. **“For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away from it. (2) For if the word spoken through angels proved unalterable, and every transgression and disobedience received a just penalty, (3) how will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? After it was at the first spoken through the Lord, it was confirmed to us by those who heard, (4) God also testifying with them, both by signs and wonders and by various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit according to His own will.”** So, based on these verses, did the author of Hebrews, after he had explained the superiority of Christ in **Hebrews 1:5-14**, then go on to give a warning to his readers? Absolutely! This is exactly what he did, and this is the warning that we just read in **Hebrews 2:1-4**.

So, what is this warning about? This warning is about not letting the truth of the New Testament message, as delivered through Christ who is superior to all others including angels, slip away.

This is what this warning is all about. And the importance of this warning should not be minimized; for the way we respond to this warning could very much determine, after we pass from this life into the next, whether we hear these words from Christ, **“Well done thou good and faithful servant”** or whether we hear these words from Christ, **“I never knew you depart from me you worker of iniquity.”**

So, if what I have just shared with about this warning is true, would it behoove us to make sure that we understand this warning and that we have taken it to heart? Absolutely!

So now let us turn to this warning and begin our examination of it, and what will we discover? We will discover that this warning is composed of three different parts. This morning we will only be examining the first part.

So, what is the first part of this warning? The first part of the warning is an exhortation (Hebrews 2:1). So let us now read **Hebrews 2:1** and see if this is

not so. And what does this verse say? **“For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away from it.”** So is the first part of this warning an exhortation? Yes! It is an exhortation.

So, what is my hope for this message as we now begin to examine this exhortation, which is contained within this warning in **Hebrews 2:1-4**? My hope is that not only would we better understand this exhortation and be motivated to fulfill this exhortation, but also that we would know how this exhortation can and should be fulfilled; for apart from fulfilling it in the power of Spirit made possible through a life of worship, we will find this exhortation impossible to fulfill, and this will expose us as we will this morning to great danger.

So let us now begin to break apart **Hebrews 2:1**, which contains the exhortation. And we will begin with the very first phrase, **“For this reason.”** The phrase “for this reason” (DIA TOUTO) connects Hebrews 2:1-4 to what the author had just said about Christ’s superiority to angels in Hebrews 1:5-14.

Or in other words, the phrase **“for this reason”** makes it very clear to his readers and to us, that the exhortation that he is about to give them would be based upon what he has just said to them in **Hebrews 1:5-14** about Christ’s superiority to angels.

So now let us continue to read **Hebrews 2:1** as the author continues to unfold his exhortation. And what does the author say next? This is what he says next, **“For this reason, we must ...”** not maybe, not might, but rather, **“we must...”** which obviously gives a sense of urgency to what he is about to say?

**“We [not just you but also me as well as every other professing believer in this world] must [What?] pay much closer attention to what we have heard.”**

So, what is the author of Hebrews inferring here by this statement? He is telling them, “You may believe, I may believe, and other professing believers may believe, that they are giving sufficient attention to what they have heard, but I am here to tell you that we are not. I am here to tell you

that we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard.” Wow! What a statement!

Obviously there is no room for satisfaction when it comes to professing believers giving attention to what they had heard; for every professing believer is being told by this author, under the inspiration of the Spirit, that they “**must pay much closer attention to what they have heard.**”

They need to grab a hold of what they have heard even more than they had already grabbed hold of it. They need to gaze into what they have heard more than they had already gazed into it. They need to mediate upon what they have heard more than they have already meditated on it. They need to be devoted to what they have heard more than they have already been devoted to it. They cannot be satisfied when it comes to this matter of how they are responding to what they have heard. They must be continually striving to do more, or in other words to pay even much closer attention to it no matter what!

But now we come to a very important question. What had the readers “heard” that they were being challenged to pay even much closer attention to regardless of how much attention they were already paying to it?

In a general sense, when the author of Hebrews challenged his readers to pay much closer attention to what they had heard, he was challenging them to pay much closer attention to what God had said to them in His Son (Hebrews 1:1-2).

How do we know this? Let us go back to back to **Hebrews 1:1-2** and what does it say? “**God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, (2) in these last days has spoken to us in His Son.**”

So, based on these two verses, can we say in a general sense that when the author of Hebrews challenged his readers to pay much closer attention to what they had heard he was challenging them to pay much closer attention to what God had said to them in His Son. Yes! Absolutely! This is exactly what he was saying. But now let us now consider the more specific sense of what the author meant. And what is that more specific sense?

In a more specific sense, when the author of Hebrews challenged his readers to pay much closer attention to what they had heard, he was challenging them to pay much closer attention to the message of salvation (Hebrews 2:3-4). This is made clear to us in **Hebrews 2:3-4** where the author speaks of the great salvation that had been spoken through Christ.

The message of salvation that was hand delivered to this world when God the Father sent God the Son into this world to take on a human form, so that He, in the offering up of His body on the cross of Calvary, might satisfy the debt of sin and thus make it possible for us to be saved, or in other words to be set free from the penalty of sin, the power of sin, and one day from the very presence of sin, not the by the works of righteousness that we have done, but rather by grace through faith, is the message the message that we have heard through Christ and it is this message that we have heard that we must pay much closer attention to.

The word “drift away” (PARAHEO) is used in this context as a nautical term to refer to a ship that has been carelessly allowed to miss a harbor it had intended to enter because of contrary winds or currents.

May God give us the grace, as He fills us with His Spirit, to pay even much more attention to the message of salvation that we have heard from Christ so that we might be assured that when our life is over that we will find safe harbor.