

“Stay Anchored on Christ!”

Hebrews 2:1-4

November 26, 2023

I. Introductory Matters

A. The “message declared by angels”:

1. 1st century Judaism had developed a belief that the Law of Moses was given from God through the mediation of angels.

Deuteronomy 33:2 - He said, “The Lord came from Sinai, And dawned on them from Seir; He shone forth from Mount Paran, And He came from the midst of ten thousand holy ones; At His right hand there was flashing lightning for them.

2. New Testament writers seem to affirm this (Heb. 2:2; Acts 7:53):

Galatians 3:19 - Why the Law then? It was added because of transgressions, having been ordained through angels by the agency of a mediator, until the seed would come to whom the promise had been made.

B. Hebrews five warning passages:

1. The scriptures’ teaching on predestination should not lead us to ignore them or regard them as purely hypothetical.
2. Such warnings are a means by which the Holy Spirit *preserves* the faith of the elect through motivating them to godly fear.

Isaiah 66:2b - ...“These are the ones I look on with favor: those who are humble and contrite in spirit, and who tremble at my word.”

II. Hebrews 2:1-4

A. The command – v. 1a:

1. We are commanded to give *extra*-special attention to the message of the gospel brought by Christ.
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2. The original language of this passage likely includes a nautical image, that is, “keep you anchor fixed on Jesus!”

B. The reasons for following this command – vs. 1b-4:

1. We will spiritually “drift out to sea” if we neglect to give heed to Christ -- becoming exposed to all sorts of peril, *especially* that of completely abandoning Christ.
2. If we completely drift away from Christ, we should expect to be exposed to divine judgement:
 - a. This was true under the *Old* Covenant.

Deuteronomy 17:2-5 - ² “If there is found in your midst, in any of your towns, which the Lord your God is giving you, a man or a woman who does what is evil in the sight of the Lord your God, by transgressing His covenant, ³ and has gone and served other gods and worshiped them, or the sun or the moon or any of the heavenly host, which I have not commanded, ⁴ and if it is told you and you have heard of it, then you shall inquire thoroughly. Behold, if it is true and the thing certain that this detestable thing has been done in Israel, ⁵ then you shall bring out that man

or that woman who has done this evil deed to your gates, that is, the man or the woman, and you shall stone them to death.

- b. The message of salvation brought through Christ is greater than the Old Covenant brought by angels.

Hebrews 10:28–29 - ²⁸ *Anyone who has set aside the law of Moses dies without mercy on the evidence of two or three witnesses.* ²⁹ *How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace?*

- c. The message of salvation has been so clearly attested that we are without excuse.