

Hebrews 2:1-4 ¹ Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip. ² For if the word spoken by angels was stedfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompence of reward; ³ How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him; ⁴ God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?

1. Introduction

- a. Book of Hebrews written to second generation Christians
- b. They heard all the accounts from first generation witnesses
- c. Three things

2. Glorious Savior

Isaiah 42:8 I am the LORD: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images.

John 17:1, 5 ¹ These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee: ... ⁵ And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.

- a. Our Savior is glorious because He created everything

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 1:3 All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made.

Hebrews 1:10 And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands:

- b. Our Savior spoke the universe into existence

Genesis 1:14-15 ¹⁴ And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years: ¹⁵ And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so.

- c. Our Savior is the same as (identical to) God

Hebrews 1:3 Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

Colossians 2:9 For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.

John 14:9 Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?

John 8:57-58 ⁵⁷ Then said the Jews unto him, Thou art not yet fifty years old, and hast thou seen Abraham? ⁵⁸ Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.

John 10:30, 33 ³⁰ I and my Father are one. ... ³³ The Jews answered him, saying, For a good work we stone thee not; but for blasphemy; and because that thou, being a man, makest thyself God.

- d. Our Savior is glorious because He is superior to all

- i. Better than angels

Hebrews 1:4 Being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.

- ii. Better than Moses

- iii. Better than Levite priests

- iv. Better than sacrifices

- e. Our Savior is glorious because He sustains everything

- i. Jesus is the “glue” in the physical universe

- ii. He “upholds all things by the word of His power” (Hebrews 1:3)

- iii. “By him all things consist.” (Colossians 1:17)

- iv. God knows the number of stars & calls them each by name

Psalm 147:4 He telleth the number of the stars; he calleth them all by their names.

- v. In field of particle physics, subatomic Higgs-Boson particle nick named “God particle”

- f. Our Savior is glorious because He stays the same (unchanging)

Hebrews 1:10-12 ¹⁰ And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands: ¹¹ They shall perish; but thou remainest; and they all shall wax old as doth a garment; ¹² And as a vesture shalt thou fold them up, and they shall be changed: but thou art the same, and thy years shall not fail.

Hebrews 13:8 Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever.

Revelation 1:8 I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.

g. Marvel at the man Jesus of Nazareth

Luke 8:25 And he said unto them, Where is your faith? And they being afraid wondered, saying one to another, What manner of man is this! for he commandeth even the winds and water, and they obey him.

3. Great Salvation

a. Salvation great in its extent

i. Described as “so great”

i. God so loved the world

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

ii. Salvation cost at so great an expense

Philippians 2:6-7 ⁶ Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: ⁷ But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

Psalms 22:1 (To the chief Musician upon Aijeleth Shahar, A Psalm of David.) My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? why art thou so far from helping me, and from the words of my roaring?

Mark 15:34 And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani? which is, being interpreted, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?

iii. God made Jesus to be sin for us Christians

2 Corinthians 5:21 For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

Hebrews 9:28 So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.

1 Peter 2:22-23 ²² Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: ²³ Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously:

1 John 3:5 And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin.

b. Salvation has great effect

i. Salvation changes Christian's eternal destiny

Romans 8:16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

Galatians 3:26 For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.

ii. God gives the Holy Spirit as new gift to Christian

Acts 2:38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Romans 5:5 And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

2 Timothy 1:14 That good thing which was committed unto thee keep by the Holy Ghost which dwelleth in us.

iii. God gives gift of eternal life

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Titus 1:2 In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;

1 John 2:25 And this is the promise that he hath promised us, even eternal life.

iv. Gospel changes people

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

4. Grievous Slipping

a. Passive behavior

- i. Words "slip" & "neglect" passive words
- ii. Similar to idea of boat slipping away from shore in water current
- iii. Water current carries boat away from safety of shore
- iv. Neglecting to engage in bold Christian living

b. Perilous behavior

i. God will judge sin in His people

1 Peter 4:17 For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?

- ii. God even judges evil angels

2 Peter 2:4 For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment;

Jude 1:6 And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.

Revelation 12:9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

- c. Not have to be permanent

- i. Of the nation of Israel

Jeremiah 18:7-8⁷ At what instant I shall speak concerning a nation, and concerning a kingdom, to pluck up, and to pull down, and to destroy it;⁸ If that nation, against whom I have pronounced, turn from their evil, I will repent of the evil that I thought to do unto them.

- ii. Of any sinning Christian

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

- iii. David's plea with God after sinning with Bathsheba Uriah's wife

Psalms 51:11-12¹¹ Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me. ¹² Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.

- iv. Church is spiritual hospital – all spiritually sick people welcome

- v. God recycles human beings to become better humans

5. Conclusion

- a. God does not share His glory with anyone else
- b. But God (the Father) shares His glory with God (the Son) our glorious Savior
- c. God's gift of salvation cost Him so much
- d. But God gives this great salvation freely to humans
- e. God warns Christians to be careful about slipping or neglecting His gift of salvation
- f. But God welcomes back any Christian with open arms