

Hebrews 2

Week Three

Study written by Holli Worthington



Day 1



Heavenly Father please fill me with all your fullness as I read your word. Let it nourish my spirit and satisfy my soul. Holy Spirit root this word deep in my heart; help me to understand it and apply it to my life.

- ✓ Read through the passage in each translation.
- ✓ Underline or write in the margin, themes that you see.
- ✓ Write a question you have about the passage.
- ✓ In the space below, write out a verse from our passage that stands out to you, that you can meditate on throughout the week.

Day 2- Hebrews 2:1-4

Chapter 1 established the divine nature of Jesus and his role as Creator and King. The first four verses of chapter 2 deliver a warning in light of that truth. The rest of the chapter highlights the reality and uniqueness of Jesus' humanity.

1. In light of the fact that Jesus is not even in the same category, but is far superior to the most glorious of created beings, what is the author admonishing his readers to do according to verse 1?

Scholar's Note: "*What we have heard*" in verse 1 refers to the gospel-the good news of Jesus.

2. What is the danger of not paying close attention to the words of Jesus?

For Discussion: What are ways we can look like we are paying attention, but we really aren't? What is the danger in that?

Picture and Ponder: "There are only two options in the Christian life: we can either sail forward in fidelity or we can drift backward in faithlessness. There is no such thing as standing still in the Christian life."¹

Scholar's Note: 1. The Greek word for "pay attention," *prosecho*, is [a] term with nautical implications; it was used to denote holding to a course or securing an anchor."² "It means not only to turn the mind to a thing but also to act upon what one perceives."³

2. The Greek word [for *drifting away*] is also a nautical term, *pararreo*, describing a ship at sail that has drifted off course, or a ship in harbor that has slipped its moorings. In other contexts it is used to describe something that slips from our minds, or even a ring that slips off a finger. One of the key ideas here is that this drifting away is something that happens largely unnoticed."⁴

3. "The message declared by angels" in verse 2 is the law given by God in the Old Testament; it is the Old Covenant (Acts 7:53, Gal.3:19). What has shown to be reliable about that message?

4. The author is making the argument that if the Old Covenant, that was delivered through mere angels, demanded payment for sin, how much more will God judge us if the message of his own Son is neglected. What will happen if we neglect such a great salvation according to verses 2-3?

For Discussion: What would be the opposite of neglecting the salvation God provided for us?

Picture and Ponder: “In the matter of our righteousness and justification we can never say too often that we do nothing, we can do nothing, it is entirely the work of Christ. But once we are saved and given this new life, then the progressive work of sanctification does not call for passivity, and we are exhorted to activity.”⁵

5. The author tells us four things in verses 3-4 that testify to the fact that the message delivered by Jesus (the “great salvation” or New Covenant) is superior to the message delivered by the angels (the Old Covenant). What are they?

6. What do you learn about miracles and gifts of the Holy Spirit from these verses?



The very dangerous thing about drifting is you don't realize it's happening. It is slow, incremental and even imperceptible. You don't have to rebel or denounce God to be in peril, you only have to neglect. If you are not actively nurturing your spiritual life then you are drifting. That is the nature of the physical world, as well as our bodies, minds and hearts. You never maintain the status quo by doing nothing — you lose ground.

The author of Hebrews tells us that this is a matter of life and death. *How shall we escape retribution if we neglect such a great salvation?* Dear friends, don't be afraid of losing your salvation, but be afraid of drifting — so that you keep vigilant and don't drift! If you are saved, your salvation is secure — you can't lose it. Nothing can snatch us away from Jesus' grip on us (John 10:28). But continued perseverance in faith is what proves our confession of faith genuine. If we drift away, if we don't persevere until the end, we prove that we were never in Jesus' hands in the first place.

- ❖ What does your heart tend to revert to when you are not actively pursuing life with God?

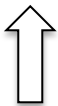
- ❖ Paying attention to God’s word is the way to avoid drifting away from God and the life of faith. It is not complicated. It is simple. But it’s not easy. What are the things that get you off course and keep you from paying attention to God?

- ❖ What are the things that help you in your struggle to pay attention to the words of Jesus? What anchors you to him?

- ❖ How will you turn away from the things that hinder you in your walk with God this week and employ the things that help you?

- ❖ Pray faithfully for a friend or loved one who has drifted away.

Picture and Ponder: “God’s keeping of his children is evident in our lives precisely through our fighting to be kept. If you are fighting to be kept, God is at work in you.”⁶



Father, help me to remember my goal is not Bible reading. Let me always keep in mind my aim is to know you better, love you more deeply and follow you more closely through reading the Bible. Thank you for revealing yourself in your precious word and making my heart alive to you.

Day 3- Hebrews 2:5-9

7. The *world to come* in verse 5 is described in 1:13. What time in history is the author speaking of?

8. Verses 6-8 are a quote from Psalm 8. (Man refers to humankind.)
What do you discover about human beings in these verses?

Critical Connection: Read the following verses and answer the questions:

-When did God put everything in subjection to human beings?

-When was their dominion lost?

Genesis 1:26 “Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

Genesis 3:6,17-19,23-24 “⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.

¹⁷ And to Adam he said, “Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, ‘You shall not eat of it,’ cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; ¹⁸ thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. ¹⁹ By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

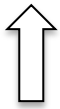
²³ therefore the LORD God sent him out from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken. ²⁴ He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.”

9. According to verse 8 how complete was man’s dominion in the garden?

-How complete is it at the present according to verse 8?

For Discussion: What are ways that human beings try to conquer the natural world? What do the successes and failures show?

10. When sin came into the world through Adam and Eve, paradise was lost. The perfection of human beings and our complete dominion over creation was subjected to the corrupting nature of sin. Our solution is presented in verse 9. What is it?



Heavenly Father, we do not see a world filled with peace, but we see him—the prince of peace, who brought us peace with you.

We do not see a world filled with love, but we see him—who for love sacrificed himself.

We do not see ourselves completely overcoming our sin, but we see him—who conquered sin and death for us.

Help me to keep my eyes on Jesus as I wait for him to come and put everything right.

11. Jesus, the perfect man is the fulfillment of Psalm 8. Why was he crowned with glory and honor according to verse 9?

Digging Deeper: Read the following verses and answer the question:

- How do these verses in Romans help explain the last part in 2:9 where it says, *so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone?*

Romans 5:17-19 ¹⁷ *For the sin of this one man, Adam, caused death to rule over many. But even greater is God's wonderful grace and his gift of righteousness, for all who receive it will live in triumph over sin and death through this one man, Jesus Christ.*

¹⁸ *Yes, Adam's one sin brings condemnation for everyone, but Christ's one act of righteousness brings a right relationship with God and new life for everyone.* ¹⁹ *Because*

one person disobeyed God, many became sinners. But because one other person obeyed God, many will be made righteous".(NLT)

12. Looking back again at verse 5, how does the *world to come* give us perspective about our world now, this in-between time where everything is not visibly in subjection to Jesus, though he is seated at the right hand of God?

Day 4- Hebrews 2:10-13

13. Verse 10 is so full that we will dissect it line by line:

For it was fitting that he-

Another way to say this is, *it was in keeping with God's character*. The question we have to ask is, how was a suffering Savior in keeping with God's character? Meditate on the following thoughts and try to answer if you can. How was the cross in keeping with:

God's justice-

God's mercy-

God's power-

God's love-

God's wisdom-

Picture and Ponder: "It was not only according to God's eternal purpose, but it was also suited to all His wondrous perfections. Never was God more Godlike than when, in the person of Jesus, He was crucified for our sins.⁷

for whom and by whom all things exist-

What does this tell us about God?

What does it tell us about ourselves in relation to God?

in bringing many sons to glory-

What is one description of heaven you could give from this phrase?
(Remember glory is the beauty of all God's attributes and sum of all God's excellency.)

should make the founder of their salvation-

Other words for *founder* are: pioneer, captain, champion, and hero.

Jesus is the champion or hero of our salvation because by sacrificing himself and suffering and dying he slew death, conquered the devil, and paid for our sins, giving us salvation.

Jesus, the pioneer of our salvation, blazed a trail to the promised land of salvation by his own righteousness and truth⁸ that we were incapable of traversing on our own.

Which one of these pictures resonates with you and why?

perfect through suffering-

What do we know *made perfect* does not mean?

Why do you think Jesus had to endure suffering to be the exact, perfect Savior that we needed?

Picture and Ponder: "The perfect Son of God has become his people's perfect Savior, opening up their way to God; and in order to become that, he must endure suffering and death."⁹

"By His sufferings Christ became qualified and was solemnly appointed to be our Leader. It was by His sufferings that He vanquished all His and our foes, triumphing gloriously over them, and thus He became fitted to be our "Captain."¹⁰

For Discussion: How can God exist when there is so much suffering in the world, is a question many people grapple with. How does the reality of Jesus as suffering Savior help to partially answer that question?

14. How does knowing that Jesus has experienced and understands suffering help you when you are suffering or persecuted?

15. Draw a line to connect the phrase with the person it is referring to from verse 11:

He who sanctifies	Adam
Those who are sanctified	Jesus
One source	Believers



When God makes us into a new creation in Jesus, Paul says, "...you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God." (1 Cor. 6:11) Jesus accomplishes this for his own through his death and resurrection. When we are declared righteous through Jesus, we are also set apart as holy and belonging to God. (1 Peter 2:9) That is one aspect of sanctification.

The other aspect of sanctification is a process that continues the rest of our earthly lives. It is the *process* of becoming holy of living, thinking and acting in accordance with our actual position of set apartness. It is what happens in all true believers becoming holy, becoming more like Jesus.

❖ What progress have you seen in your life of growing more holy?

- ❖ How does understanding that God poured out undeserved favor on you and loved you unconditionally while you were his enemy motivate you to live for him and keep you from trying to earn his favor?

- ❖ How does focusing on Jesus make you more like him?

- ❖ What does focusing on Jesus look like in daily life?

16. Verse 12 is a quote from Psalm 22, a well-known Messianic Psalm. Jesus quoted portions of this Psalm as he was dying on the cross. The verse quoted here in Hebrews applies to Jesus after his suffering and resurrection. According to verse 12, what wonderful privileges do we have because Jesus shares in our humanity and calls us his brothers and sisters? (What does Jesus say to us and how does he lead us?) (Check out NLT for help in clarification)

17. Verse 13a is a quote from Isaiah 8:17b in which Isaiah was declaring his trust in God because his calling was very hard. In Hebrews the words are applied to Jesus. As a human being sharing in our humanity what did Jesus have to do?

18. Verse 13b is from Isaiah 8:18 where Isaiah declares his confidence in God, writing that he and his children are a sign from God of his everlasting covenant. Applying this quote to Jesus, who do we see Jesus identifying with in verse 13b as he presents himself to God?

-How does this give us confidence?



Isn't it astounding that Jesus—the radiance of God, the One through whom all things were created and to whom the angels sing praises and worship—became human. He chose to share in our humanity—and call us his siblings! Jesus is the big brother that everyone needs! The One who knows and understands you. The One who fights for you and sacrifices for you. The One who shows you compassion and kindness. The One who stands by you and helps you. Jesus, our brother, the perfect God-man is everything we need.

- ❖ Spend time in prayer thanking Jesus for calling you sister.

Day 5- Hebrews 2:14-18

19. What are all the ways in verses 14-18 that the writer of Hebrews expresses the truth that Jesus is fully human?



Jesus thank you for taking on flesh—even though you are God so we can see who God is through you! Thank you for becoming a human like me so you could save me.

For Discussion: What kind of value does Jesus taking on flesh, put on our bodies?

20. Verses 14-15 tell us that Jesus came to earth as a human being in order to do two things—destroy the devil and deliver the captives. What kind of power did the devil have?

-What was fearful about death before we were delivered?

-How does Jesus release us from this fear?

21. What are the reasons Jesus had to be made like us in every respect according to verse 17?

Scholar's Note: Propitiation is that which appeases the wrath of God against sin.

Picture and Ponder: "It could not have been done unless man paid what was owing to God for sin. But the debt was so great that, while man alone owed it, only God could pay it, so that the same person must be both man and God. Thus it was necessary for God to take manhood into the unity of his person, so that he who in his own nature ought to pay and could not should be in a person who could."¹¹



As our high priest (don't worry if you don't get the high priest thing, we will go into this more later on) Jesus is a merciful and faithful mediator (v.17) As sinners what could we desire more than someone merciful and faithful representing us to God?

Jesus mercifully and faithfully helps us in our temptations. Because he is fully human he knows what it is to be us! Verse 18 tells us that he himself suffered when tempted. When we think of Jesus being tempted, our minds usually go to the temptation in the wilderness when the devil tempted Jesus for forty days something, none of us have experienced. But Jesus also experienced daily temptations in every category that we face. Imagine that for a minute... Jesus knows our struggle; he knows the suffering of temptation.

- ❖ Why does temptation involve suffering?

- ❖ How does it help you to know that Jesus never gave in to a temptation (Heb. 4:15) yet he understands the struggle?

❖ How does keeping our eyes on Jesus weaken the temptations we face?

Picture and Ponder: Consider the excellency of Jesus – fully God and fully man. “In Jesus Christ, meet infinite highness and infinite condescension; infinite justice and infinite grace; infinite glory and lowest humility; infinite majesty and transcendent meekness; deepest reverence toward God and equality with God; worthiness of good and the greatest patience under the suffering of evil; a great spirit of obedience and supreme dominion over heaven and earth; absolute sovereignty and perfect resignation; self-sufficiency and an entire trust and reliance on God.”¹²

One Thing: Look back over this week’s study. Pick one thing that God was stirring in your heart, convicting you about, or something new that you learned and write it here.

How will knowing this impact the way you think and act?

¹ Mohler, R. Albert. Exalting Jesus in Hebrews (Christ-Centered Exposition Commentary) (p. 24). B&H Publishing Group. Kindle Edition.

² Richard D. Phillips. Hebrews (Reformed Expository Commentary) (Kindle Locations 639-640). Kindle Edition.

³ Expositor’s Commentary Copyright © 1998-2018 Olive Tree Bible Software

⁴ Richard D. Phillips. Hebrews (Reformed Expository Commentary) (Kindle Locations 617-619). Kindle Edition.

⁵ D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones, *The Life of Peace* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1992), 89.

⁶ Piper, John <https://desiringgod.org/interviews/how-do-i-survive-this-midlife-crisis>

⁷ Pink, Arthur W. *An Exposition of Hebrews* (Arthur Pink Collection Book 21) (Kindle Locations 2091-2093). Priscilla Publishing. Kindle Edition.

⁸ Richard D. Phillips. Hebrews (Reformed Expository Commentary) (Kindle Locations 930). Kindle Edition.

⁹ F. F. Bruce, *The Epistle to the Hebrews*, rev. ed. (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1990), 80. Richard D. Phillips. Hebrews (Reformed Expository Commentary) (Kindle Locations 8321-8322). Kindle Edition. As quoted in Richard D. Phillips. Hebrews (Reformed Expository Commentary) (Kindle Location 953). Kindle Edition.

¹⁰ Pink, Arthur W.. *An Exposition of Hebrews* (Arthur Pink Collection Book 21) (Kindle Locations 2195-2197). Priscilla Publishing. Kindle Edition.

¹¹ Anselm of Canterbury, *Why God Became Man*, in Eugene R. Fairweather, *A Scholastic Miscellany: Anselm to Ockham* (Philadelphia: Westminster, 1961), 176. as quoted in Richard D. Phillips. *Hebrews* (Reformed Expository Commentary) (Kindle Location 8325). Kindle Edition. Richard D. Phillips. *Hebrews* (Reformed Expository Commentary) (Kindle Locations 1047-1049). Kindle Edition.

¹² Edwards, Jonathan, "The Excellency of Christ," *The Works of Jonathan Edward*, 1, ed. Sereno Dwight (Edinburgh: Banner of Truth Trust, 1976), 680-683 as quoted in "The Pleasure of God" by John Piper, 2017 p.16

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