

Hebrews (3)

Heb 2:1-18

In the military when there is an announcement to be made, you will hear the command, "attention!" Everything stops, talking stops, body stops! You are ready to hear. Now the explanation is given.

1. Therefore we must pay closer attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away.

If you have ever been in a small boat, you may be familiar with what drifting is. That is when you do nothing and let the flow of the current move the boat.

2. For if the message spoken through angels proved to be so firm that every violation or disobedience received its just penalty,

We noticed in the previous chapter that Angels were very high on the superiority ladder and their warnings were backed by a promise of a severe penalty if not followed.

3. how will we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was first communicated through the Lord and was confirmed to us by those who heard him,

First what is the most important point? Great salvation. Its author is great, and because it saves from great sins, and because it saves from great dangers. The life of Jesus was the very image of what salvation could be in our lives. All of His teachings made salvation a recognizable fantastic gift. So what is the concern? Neglect. A simple thing. As in the boat you do nothing with the oars, or the flashing air pressure light in the car, or the weeds in the garden, or the knowledge about salvation, etc. And since we are dealing with a much more Superior than Angels or prophets, escape from a just penalty is impossible. And especially with these fantastic confirmations.

4. while God confirmed their witness with signs and wonders and various miracles and gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.

When we read the book of Acts, we see all of these. And even today in our churches and in our Christian families we see these happening. Which is ample verification that God is still confirming the great salvation that Jesus prepared for us.

Remember in the beginning of this letter that a concluding point was emphasized, **1:2 in these last days he has spoken to us in a son.**

It means that everything before was a preparation, a shadow, a foggy picture but now it is complete and fully revealed. There is nothing more to be added to the plan of salvation. So the warning is very strong to not let it slip out of your hand.

Now the verses 5 to 13 are a little complex, so I have tried to make a simplified version. There is a future coming and Jesus will be in control. And although He was lower than Angels for awhile, it will change. And although humans are even lower than Angels, Jesus is not embarrassed to call us brothers and sisters.

vs 14-15. Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, he likewise shared in their humanity, so that through death he could destroy the one who holds the power of death (that is, the devil), and set free those who were held in slavery all their lives by their fear of death.

The love, compassion, empathy and concern that Jesus has for us is revealed in the great sacrifice He made. And greatest of all fears, death. Something that we have no control over. Even though we have tried different things to let it slip off, it doesn't work. But Jesus did it for us. Everything that we could imagine about death can be removed because Jesus took our place. And that is the truth that sets us free from the devil. Now we can live like Jesus.

Vs 17-18. Therefore he had to be made like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he could become a merciful and faithful high priest in things relating to God, to make atonement for the sins of the people. For since he himself suffered when he was tempted,

he is able to help those who are tempted.

And now we come to another key point about Jesus. He made himself available to feel like we feel, get angry like us, panic like us, look for a way to escape like us, be confused like us, and (fill in the blank) like us.

All of us at sometime in our lives have been in a situation where we needed someone with more strength, more knowledge, more courage, more compassion, more (fill in the blank). And the words "He is able" is the answer. He is the most superior so He can do what is needed.

This fact must be a very sure conviction especially in prayers but in every aspect of our lives. "**He is able!**"