

Books of The Bible

The Severity Of The Warnings Of Hebrews - First Warning

- ii) Accepting the fact that the letter was addressed to a predominantly Jewish congregation, the emphasis on the superiority of the Son over angels must not be missed. The writer had gone to great lengths to show from the Jewish Old Testament the superiority of the Son over angels (ch. 1:4-7, 13), a subject he is not yet finished with (ch. 2:5). Therefore, since the words spoken by angels had severe consequences to those who were disobedient to the message, how much greater would be the consequences on those who had rejected the message spoken by the Son and had historically been shown to be true? (ch. 2:2-3)
 - iii) In chapter 2:3 there is stressed man's responsibility. God does not make man neglect so great salvation, for God has given man a free will to accept or neglect and reject. The onus is on men. Note he uses the word "we" yet the message is to individuals. When it comes to salvation no one makes the decision for others. In writing to the Romans Paul writes, "And thinkest thou this, O man, that judgest them which do such things, and doest the same, that thou shalt escape the judgment of God?" (Rom. 2:3). Just as it was to the populace of the ancient world, they heard the message but made light of it, neglected it until it was too late.
 - iv) This was and is not today a message to be preached in cold factualness but with the tenderhearted weeping of an individual who has seen the fearfulness of eternal hell fire. John the Baptist preached to the religious leaders, "How can ye escape the damnation of hell?" (Matt. 23:33)
- b) While the immediate context here is the law, which being God's word had a binding unchangeable message, one hundred percent perfection of judgment meant that the slightest infraction merited just retribution. Being Jews, many of these cities and people would have known about God's message to Lot, to get out of the cities and God's command, "look not behind thee" (Gen. 19:17). Lot's wife did and there was instant retribution. There was no escape from the judgment of God on Sodom and Gomorrah (Gen. 19:24) or the people of Noah's day (Gen. 7:23).
- c) The word "we" is only used five times in Hebrews. It is my understanding it means, "How shall we who have heard and seen the evidences of this great salvation, secured by Jesus on the cross of Calvary, if we neglect it how do we escape the judgment of God"? There is no doubting its reality and truthfulness.
- d) Secondary recipients:
- i) Each of these verses can be used greatly in the gospel message. When the natural response of the majority of people to the gospel is, "I'll get saved later, not tonight" or "I have too many things to do today and getting saved would interfere with them". There is no intention of putting the matter off indefinitely, just this is not the right time to get saved, I am sure God will give me another chance. There must be the observation that to "neglect" is not to "reject" however, we do not know when the last "neglect" will be, in the economy of God, the individuals final answer. The line is passed from a neglect to a reject and that was the last offer of salvation. In preaching, stress could be made on:
 1. The genuineness of the invitation, it is from the Lord Jesus.
 2. The greatness of the insult in rejecting the gift, use an application from a birthday or Christmas gift, how rude to have it rejected or returned.
 3. The unspeakable cost of the gift provided, salvation.
 4. The solemn consequences of rejection.
 5. The blessings of acceptance.

Summarized:

- 1) To reject the word spoken by angels carried serious consequences. How much more serious it would be to reject the word of the Lord which was confirmed by the Holy Spirit?
- 2) The danger was they would "let them slip". The wording is the individual would drift away from the truth. The devil always takes away the good seed after it has been sown and convicted hearts by the idle talk of

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believers and the attraction of the world can cause the individual to drift away from their convictions and not to know the voice of the Holy Spirit for a long and possibly the last time on this earth.

**May God grant us good understanding as He, by His Holy Spirit, deigns to guide us into all truth.
John 16:13**

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