

Jesus is Better – Hebrews

Hebrews 1:4-2:4

“Warning! Don’t Drift” – January 14th, 2018



Introduction

The world is not a calm lake, it is a rushing river. To live in this world is to enter a current that flows away from God. Being a Christian involves swimming *against* that current, but swimming upstream is exhausting! As the child of God works upstream, it's tempting to get in an inner tube, sip a lemonade, and coast along with the current. It's hard not to envy the rest of the world that seems to be at ease ([Ps. 73:3](#)), to want to take a break and coast along with them. The Christian life takes endurance! To the readers who were tempted to turn away from Jesus, Hebrews makes the case that Jesus is better – He's better than anything that tempts you to turn away; He's God's only way of salvation, so to turn away from Him is to turn away from the hope of salvation. To strengthen us the author shows *who* Jesus is (the Son of God) as the reason we should listen to Him. The more we listen, the more we can endure and avoid drifting off course.

Pray

Before you begin, take some time to ask God to help you understand His word, to reveal what needs to change in you, and for the grace to follow Him in response. To help, use [Psalm 119:17-24](#) as a prayer for God to open His word up to you.

Sermon Outline

- I. Jesus is better than angels, because He's the *unique* Son of God (1:4-14)
- II. So, listen to Jesus (2:1-4)

Read & Discuss

- 1) Read [Hebrews 1:4-14](#)

The seven Old Testament quotes here show how Jesus, as the unique Son of God is better than the angels. As the Son of God, He is the long-awaited Messiah, the Davidic King who would rule in righteousness and forever ([Psalm 2:7](#), [2 Samuel 7:14](#)). God never said that to the angels – instead they are servants of Jesus who do His bidding and worship Him ([Psalm 97:7](#), [Psalm 104:4](#)). Jesus alone is King of Kings who rules forever ([Psalm 45:6-7](#)) and never changes ([Psalm 102:25-27](#)). As a result, *Jesus*, not the angels, are seated at God's right hand until *all* His enemies are made His footstool ([Psalm 110:1](#)). Sometimes we know something to be true but live as if it's not. How would your life look different if you *lived* knowing these things are true of Jesus in all His authority, goodness, and power?

Hebrews is making the case: *Jesus is better than angels* to help the reader fight the temptation to leave. What are the things that tempt you to leave or water down Christianity to make it a little easier? Think about what the temptation is promising (status,

comfort, wealth, power etc.) and put that up against what Hebrews is saying about Jesus. How do those truths about Jesus help you fight those temptations and endure?

Additional reading: Colossians 1:15-18, Matthew 24:13

2) Read Hebrews [2:1-4](#)

The 'great salvation' is the message of salvation, the good news of Jesus Christ. That message, which they'd heard, is put in contrast to the old covenant message, the law delivered to Moses by angels (see Acts 7:53, Galatians 3:19). That's why Hebrews highlights angels – as God's deliverer of the law, they represent that message. Jesus, and His gospel, are better than them! To 'drift' is to go off course until we end up in the wrong destination. 2:1-4 is the first of five warnings we'll come across in Hebrews (2:1-4, 3:7-4:13, 6:4-8, 10:26-31, 12:25-29) where the author seeks to lovingly steer us away from a path leading to destruction.

How can we avoid drifting? Hebrews 2:1 is clear: by paying much closer attention to what we have heard about Jesus in God's word! Reading God's word and remembering this 'great salvation' does not earn us merit with God or make us right with Him...but it is God's means for the believer to find new strength, stay on course, and keep trusting Jesus. What are ways you can fight distractions and pay much closer attention to what you have heard? How can you help others in our church do the same?

Additional Reading: Psalm 119:11, Psalm 37:31

Prayer of Response

Spend time praying together in response to God's word for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to come.

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