NEGLECTING OUR SALVATION

**DATE: 7/31/2013 Wed.**

**TEXT: Hebrews 2:2-4**

**INTRODUCTION**

In **Hebrews 2:1-4** we have the first of 5 warnings in the Book of Hebrews

The emphasis of this first warning is the Neglecting of our Salvation

In our last study we saw the Danger of Slipping in the Christian life

The writer instructed us in **v.1 –**

***“to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip”***

We saw the word ***“slip”*** speaks of *letting something carelessly go by*

The idea is that of taking something Lightly

There’s danger in getting to the place in our Christian life that we don’t take the things of God Seriously

 - In **v. 3** this danger is further emphasized in the phrase

***“if we neglect our salvation”***

The word ***“neglect”*** means *to make light of*

In **Matthew 22** we have the parable of those who were invited to a wedding

The invitation was sent out and we read the response of those invited –

**v. 5 -** ***“But they made light of it, and went their ways, one to his farm, another to his merchandise”***

The phrase ***“they might light of it”*** is the same thought as the word ***“neglect”*** in **Hebrews 2:3**

When the writer warns us not to Neglect our Salvation

He’s talking about taking it Lightly

- This warning is often used as an appeal for people to be saved

But this is not the context of our passage

I don’t think there’s an injustice done to the passage

Sinners should be exhorted not to neglect God’s offer of salvation

However, the words are not an appeal to the unsaved

But rather to the saved

If you’ll notice carefully in the statement …

The writer uses the personal pronoun ***“we”***

The writer is including himself in this appeal

Obviously, the writer is not saying that he needs to be saved

No, he is addressing those who are already saved …

Warning them about the danger of taking one’s Salvation Lightly

Let’s look at this 2nd half of the warning and notice the reasons that are given why we should not let things slip

…To the …

***“Neglecting of our Salvation”***

**~~~Prayer~~~**

**I. THE “SIN” OF NEGLECTING OUR SALVATION**

The writer asks in **vs. 2, 3a –**

*“****For if the word spoken by angels was steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompence of reward;” “How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation …”?***

***“The Word”*** - writer is referencing is the Law given by God

The Commandments that He had given His people

The writer speaks of -

**A. The ‘Delivering’ of God’s Commands**

The writer speaks of the ***“word spoken by angels”***

The writer is speaking of how God delivered His Law to Moses through angels

Although the OT historical account of the giving of the Law on Mt. Sinai does not mention angels …

We do know that they were involved

**Galatians 3:19** states that the Law –

***“was ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator”***

Meaning that the Law was delivered unto Moses by the agency of angels

**Acts 7:38** speaks of –

***“the angel which spake to him in the mount Sina”***

 - The ***“word”*** which the writer is speaking of is *the Law*

The Commandments God had given His people to guide and regulate their life

The Ten Commandments, are in a sense, a summary of the Law …

It consist of a series of *thou shalt not’s* and *thou shalt’s*

The *“shalt not’s”* are God’s commands that *‘Guard’* our Life

Some act like God’s shall not’s are a list of restrictions that chain them, limiting them as to what they can do

However, they’re not to be Burdens, but Blessings

They are Designed for our Protection

Can you imagine what society would be like if there were no Laws

It wouldn’t even be safe to go out of our house

*When God forbids something, it is always with the motive of protecting us from the consequences that result from what is forbidden*

The “shalt’s” are God’s commands to *‘Guide’* our Life

These are Divine Regulations to be Followed

Guiding us to a Holy Life

We often think of the Christian life in terms of what we should Not do

However, there are things that we should do

Because someone does not steal or lie does not make them holy

It’s when we Worship the Lord and give Him the honor He deserves …

That our lives begin to bear the marks of holiness

I’ve met some *separated* people who were not very *consecrated* people

There is a Big difference!

- The writer speaks of these commands as being ***“stedfast”*** in **v.2**

***“steadfast”*** speaks of that which is *firm and sure*

The word is translated ***“firm”*** in **Hebrews 3:6**

- What God has said is *Settled*

- His Word is *Unchanging*

How many have heard the Constitution referred to as a Living Document?

Meaning, that what it says, changes with our changing culture

The Word of God is indeed a Living Word,

But, it does not change with a changing culture

For example, the morals of our culture often change

In the U.S. many things that were once abhorred are now accepted

A good example is homosexuality

In the past it has been largely viewed as immoral and unnatural

However, today it is considered an alternative lifestyle and laws are constantly being passed to protect it

Society may raise and lower the bar of what is right and wrong …

But God never alters His Word to accommodate our opinions, political views, or changing culture

God’s Commands don’t Vacillate or Fluctuate

If something was a sin in the Past, it remains a sin in the Present …

… Regardless of what a court of law may say about it

**The ‘Delivering’ of God’s Commands**

**B. The ‘Disobeying’ of God’s Commands**

In **v. 2** there are 2 words that describe our disobedience

**1.** The word ***“transgression”***

This word speaks of *stepping over a line*

God’s Commands, put up Boundaries

These Boundaries are written in God’s Word as well as in our Conscience

When we step over this boundary, we are acting in disobedience

**2.** The word ***“disobedience”***

This word speaks of *an unwillingness to hear*

A deliberate reluctance to hear what has been said

You have heard the saying - *it goes in one ear and out the other …*

Disobedience is hearing and knowing what God says about something …

… But ignoring what is heard, and doing it anyway

- The word ***“transgression”***reminds us that there are boundaries we should not cross

There are lines drawn in the sand

The word ***“disobedience”*** reminds us that we are to be obedient to God’s commands

If He tells us not to cross a line …

We should purpose in our heart that we will not cross that line

- The writer’s reference to ***“transgression”*** and ***“disobedience”*** made in the context of *neglecting our salvation* indicates that taking our salvation lightly, is sin

To not be a serious Christian is to be a sinful Christian

We are given the admonition not to neglect our salvation

Having been warned of the danger …

If we allow ourselves to slip into such a condition …

We are guilty of ***“transgression”*** and *“****disobedience”***

**THE “SIN” OF NEGLECTING OUR SALVATION**

**II. THE “SERIOUSNESS” OF NEGLECTING OUR SALVATION**

The writer not only Describes the Sin of Neglecting our Salvation …

But also How God Views the Matter

We are not to take our Salvation Lightly

For God does not take it Lightly when we take it Lightly!

Look how the writer describes, how Serious a matter this is

First, he says our Neglect will be dealt with -

**A. A ‘Proper’ Punishment**

In **v. 2** we find this statement –

***“a just recompence of reward”***

This statement is found 3 times in the Book of **Hebrews - 2:3; 10:35; 11:26**

It speaks of a payment for either good or bad

In this case, obviously, it is a payment for that which is bad

The writer is speaking of how God punishes those who disobey Him

It is called a ***“just recompense”***

It is a punishment that is *fair and impartial*

Parents tell their children that there are certain things they are not to do

When they disobey, we punish them

Of course today we put them in *time out*

I wish someone had taught my parents about time outs

I would have rather sat in my room than not being able to sit at all

When we have to punish our children for wrong,

We believe our punishment is *just*

God is our Heavenly Father and when we disobey Him,

His punishment and discipline is ***“just”***

***“a just recompence of reward”***

**A ‘Proper’ Punishment**

**B. A ‘Personal’ Punishment**

In **v. 3** we read - ***“How shall we escape?”***

In the OT there are many examples of God judging sin

These examples reveal that God does not tolerate sin,

But as a Holy and Righteous God …

He punishes ***“transgression”*** and ***“disobedience”***

We like to magnify God’s Love

Yes, He is a God of Love, and how thankful we should be that He is

Yet, He is also a Righteous God, and as such …

He is also a God of Judgment

The point that the writer is making is that if God dealt justly with sin in the OT,

How shall we, who have now received God’s complete and full revelation in His Son …

Think that we can escape God’s Judgment for Sin

The word ***“We”*** makes what the writer is saying a personal matter

*We* are only fooling ourselves if we think that God will not deal with us when we cross His lines and deliberately disobey Him

The Warning is very clear

God does not take Lightly our taking Lightly our salvation

To neglect our salvation is a serious matter

Why does God take our salvation so seriously?

Our salvation required Him to give His Son,

The Lord Jesus, die on the cross

When we take our Salvation Lightly we are taking Lightly the price that Jesus paid to save us

His sacrificial death on the cross is not a matter to be taken Lightly

**Song:** The songwriter expressed the devotion that every believer ought to demonstrate in their life – “Jesus paid it all, All to Him I owe; Sin had left a crimson stain. He washed it white as snow”

Yes, all to Him we owe

We would still be living a wasted life

We would still be on our way to hell, or maybe in hell

… If it had not been for what Christ did for us on the cross

Is there anything more, that should call for the Serious Treatment of our Salvation?

I think not!

By the way - ***“How shall we escape?”***

**THE “SIN” OF NEGLECTING OUR SALVATION**

**THE “SERIOUSNESS” OF NEGLECTING OUR SALVATION**

**III. THE “SHAME” OF NEGLECTING OUR SALVATION**

The writer speaks of our Salvation as ***“so great salvation”***

Everything about our Salvation is Great!

- It is Great because of what has been done *for* us

- It is Great in what has been done *in* us

Our Salvation is indeed a ***“great salvation”***

**Song:** *“Years I spent in vanity and pride, Caring not my Lord was crucified, Knowing not it was for me He died, On Calvary. Oh, the love that drew salvation’s plan! Oh, the grace that brought it down to man! Oh, the mighty gulf that God did span, At Calvary! Mercy there was great, and grace was free; Pardon there was multiplied to me; There my burdened soul found liberty, At Calvary”*

What a blessed day, the day we came to Calvary!

First let’s look at -

**A. The ‘Origination’ of the Message**

Again in **v. 3** he states that the message –

***“first began to be spoken by the Lord”***

The message of our ***“great salvation”*** came directly from the Lord Jesus

He came to this earth to both Proclaim, and Provide …

… Salvation

It’s a Message that comes directly from God the Son

Proclaiming to all men, that they might be Saved

**The ‘Origination’ of the Message**

**B. The ‘Proclamation’ of the Message**

The writer also states that the message –

***“was confirmed unto us by them that heard Him”***

The word ***“confirmed”*** means *to establish*

How was the Message of Salvation established?

The disciples that heard Him went out and told others what He said

**II Timothy 2:2 – *“And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also”***

This has always been God’s way of making the Message of Salvation known

Those who have heard Him are to tell others what He said

That is God’s only method of proclaiming the message of His ***“great salvation”***

**The ‘Origination’ of the Message**

**The ‘Proclamation’ of the Message**

**C. The ‘Affirmation’ of the Message**

**Affirm** means **–** *to**declare something as True*

We read in **v. 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”***

The word ***“witness”*** means *to testify*

As they went forth Proclaiming the Message of Salvation

God Testified to the Truth and Reality of the Message

The writer describes the various ways that God verified the Message they Proclaimed

**1.** God testified to the truth of their message by ***“signs”***

Signs are miracles that revealed God’s Power

Thereby affirming that what was being said was indeed God’s Word

**2.** God Testified to the Truth of their Message by ***“wonders”***

The word speaks of something startling, imposing, and amazing

Events that are out of the ordinary

Something supernatural

Because of their nature they are amazing to behold

**3.** God Testified to the Truth of their Message by ***“divers miracles”***

The word ***“divers”*** speaks of Different Kinds of Miracles

As the disciples and apostles went forth

- The lame were made to walk – **Acts 3:1-9**

- The Diseased and Possessed where delivered – **Acts 19:12**

- Even the dead were raised back to life – **Acts 9:36 -43**

In their Ministry we see Miracles of all sorts being Performed

**4.** God Testified to the Truth of their Message by ***“gifts of the Holy Ghost”***

All these things were the acts of God through the person of the Holy Ghost

In **Mark 16:17, 18** Jesus said to His disciples just before His ascension –

***“And these signs shall follow them that believe; In My name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;”***

***“They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover”***

It was His Promise that He would be with them Testifying to the Truth of their Message and Ministry

We read in **Mark 16:20 –**

***“And they went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen”***

I must put a footnote here concerning these signs, wonders, and divers miracles

Today, there are many who claim these Sign Gifts are still in operation

The Purpose of the Miracles Performed by the disciples was to Confirm the Word

These were gifts that were Transitional in Nature

They were gifts to confirm God’s hand on these men

They are no longer needed today

God now Confirms His Message through the Written Word

Here is the Shame of Neglecting our Salvation

It is a GREAT SALVATION

We should be Ashamed that we would take ***“so great salvation”*** Lightly

Something that is so Great and Glorious should never be taken Lightly

For someone to be given such a Wonderful Salvation,

Then to take it Lightly is indeed a Shameful Matter

**THE “SIN” OF NEGLECTING OUR SALVATION**

**THE “SERIOUSNESS” OF NEGLECTING OUR SALVATION**

**THE “SHAME” OF NEGLECTING OUR SALVATION**