

Questions for Reflection and Discussion

1. Prayerfully ask yourself, "Why do I believe Jesus & his promises can be trusted?" Would you believe it if the rest of your family all walked away from the faith? Are you convinced that God and his Word can be trusted more than your experience or your community?
2. Can you observe evidence that you believe what God has said about his Son? How is this belief reflected in the serious way you study the Scriptures? How is this reflected in your prayer life? If these questions are convicting, what should be your next move? Who could you discuss this with in your church family?
3. List the some of the many ways God has made sure humanity knows that Jesus is his promised Son:
4. If people in our culture are so influence by their community, would it be a good idea to invite them to get to know your Christian friends? How might this help overcome their sense that Christianity is not very believable?
5. How should our goals change in view of the gospel? (At home? With your spouse? With your children? At work? At church?) What should I do to lean on Jesus/the Holy Spirit for strength for each task? What methods should be altered? (At home? With your spouse? With your children? At work? At church?)

ⁱ Dever, Mark. The Deliberate Church: Building Your Ministry on the Gospel . Crossway. Kindle Edition.

ⁱⁱ Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. (1996). [Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament: based on semantic domains](#) (electronic ed. of the 2nd edition., Vol. 1, p. 468). New York: United Bible Societies.



Sunday, July 19, 2020
Be Afraid to Ignore God's Word
 Hebrews 1:3-2:4

Who We Listen To Will Change How We See

Genesis 3:6a

So when the woman *saw* that the tree was good for food...

Whose Voice Do We Listen To?

I. In These Last Days God Has Spoken by His Son! (1:1-4)

¹ Long ago, at many times and in many ways, **God spoke** to our fathers **by the prophets**, ² but in *these last days* he has spoken to us **by his Son**...

God has declared his Son by the Prophets:

- Prophet
- Appointed Heir
- Creator
- God
- Carries Universe
- Priest
- King

II. Yahweh Declares His Son/King (v. 5 – David's Greater Son)

⁵ For to which of the **angels** did **God ever say**, (**Psalm 2:7**, *Resurrection* announced **God's King**)

"You are my **Son**,
today I have begotten you"?



Or again, (**2 Samuel 7:14**, Build God's House...Steadfast Love)

III. Yahweh Commands His Servants the Angels

⁶ And again, when he brings *the firstborn* into the world, **he says**,
"Let all God's angels worship him." (**Deut. 32:43**, Moses' Song)

⁷ Of the **angels** **he says**, (**Ps. 104:4**, All creation serves Yahweh/Jesus)

IV. Yahweh Tells of His Son's Divine Reign of Joy & Hope

⁸ **But of the Son he says**, (**Psalm 45:6-9**, Messianic Royal Wedding)

¹⁰ **And**, (**Psalm 102:25-27**, Lament...Promised Future)

V. Yahweh Declares the Authority & Power Given His Son

¹³ And to which of the angels **has he ever said**, (Psalm 110:1)

"Sit at my right hand (1:3)

until **I make your enemies** a footstool for your feet"?



Are we listening?

We Dare Not Neglect God's Word (2:1-3a)

I. Transition: For the sake of the Elect... ("Right Side of History")

¹⁴ Are they (Angels) not all ministering spirits sent out to serve **for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation**?

(Why do we believe? Evidence, Experience, Community)

II. Deliberately Protect Against Drift (1)

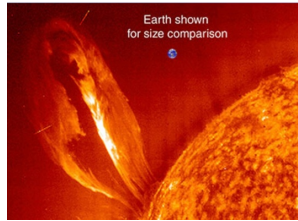
2 Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we **have heard**, lest we drift away from it.

“We try to be intentional and thoughtful about what we do, because we realize that we are involved in the greatest task on earth—the building up of the body of Christ for His honor and glory. ...our first priority is to make sure that the Gospel enjoys functional centrality in the church. That is, we must make sure that the Gospel governs the way the church functions. When the Gospel enjoys functional centrality, the church gains traction in the culture, because the Gospel is the power of God for salvation (Rom. 1:16; 1 Cor. 1:17-18).”ⁱ

- A. Church Discipline (Are we smarter than God?)
- B. Male & Female... (Image bearers or Passions)
- C. Family (What we Want?... What does Jesus Require of Us?)

III. The Context Controls the Urgency (2-3a) (e.g. Landing a plane)

² For since the message **declared by angels** proved to be **reliable** (legally binding), and every transgression or disobedience (“to refuse to listen, to refuse to obey”) received a just retribution,³ **how shall we escape** if we **neglect such a great salvation?**



How Urgent is Our Situation?

“the warning passages of Hebrews”: 3:12–4:13; 5:11–6:12; 10:26–39; 12:25–29.

Hebrews 3:12–13

¹² Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you **an evil, unbelieving heart**, leading you to fall away from the living God. ¹³ But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called “today,” that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

Hebrews 5:12–13

¹² For though by this time you ought to be teachers, **you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God**. You need milk, not solid food, ¹³ for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child.

Hebrews 10:26–29

²⁶ For **if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth**, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, ²⁷ but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire

that will consume the adversaries. ²⁸ Anyone who has set aside **the law of Moses** dies without mercy on the evidence of two or three witnesses. ²⁹ **How much worse punishment**, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace?

Hebrews 12:25

²⁵ See that you **do not refuse him who is speaking**. For if they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, **much less will we escape** if we reject him who warns from heaven. (battling for the promised land)

What About Faith?

Philippians 2:12–13

¹² Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, **work out your own salvation with fear and trembling**, ¹³ for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Whose Voice are You Listening to? (2:3b-4)

God has *declared* his Son by the Son:

It was **declared** at first by **the Lord**, and it was **attested** to us by **those who heard**, ⁴ while **God** also **bore witness** by **signs and wonders and various miracles** and by **gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed** according to his will. (Cf. 1:1-2)

Do You Have a Joyful Heart of Careful Submission?

I am contending for deliberate, prayerful effort in actively listening to God’s Word. (battling for the promised land)

“In whatever we do, we want to be careful about allowing God’s Word to set our trajectory, power our progress, and govern our methods.”ⁱ

- A. **Word:** Daily prayerful meditation on God’s Word
- B. **Heart:** Where am I being ruled by my desires instead of Jesus?
- C. **Actions:** What does submission to Jesus look like...

Hebrews 2:10

For it was fitting that **he, for whom and by whom all things exist**, in **bringing many sons to glory**, should make **the founder of their salvation** perfect through suffering.