

## The Patio Pulpit For January 27, 2021

“Every Sin Has Been Justly Paid For.”

Hebrews 2:1-2

Let’s take our Bibles and turn to Hebrews chapter 2 and we will read verses 1 through 3 (repeat). I want to let you all know that I’m quite aware of the fact that I have circled this mountain for some time now, but, I may have reached the point where I am ready to move on toward the promised land. For me, this passage has been one of my dead beaver passages where I need to turn around and get a better look at it before I drive any further.

I want you to know before we go any further that this book is full of truths you and I need to know and own. It was written to a settlement of Jews who had heard the gospel of their Messiah and were trying to decide what to do with what they had heard, but it was also written for our learning and our edification. Remember 2 Timothy 3:16-17.

And “**the**” lesson the author emphasizes over and over is **“it’s all about Jesus.”**

This letter says to me that God has my back. It tells me that my sin and my sins and my sinfulness have all been taken care of by the Man Christ Jesus whose blood and life and death are the just penalty that the author refers to in our text for tonight. **God has never given anyone of His children permission to sin, but, He has made gracious provision for our sins by means of the blood of His Son.**

And here’s our text:

*Hebrews 2:1 For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away from it.*

*<sup>2</sup> For if the word spoken through angels proved unalterable, and every transgression and disobedience received a just penalty,*

*<sup>3</sup> how will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? (Heb. 2:1-3 NAU)*

Let me do a little recap at this point. You will remember that the words “for this reason” in v.1, point the Jewish readers back to chapter 1, verses 1-3, where the author emphasized how God had spoken in these last days through His Son who had made purification of sins on

their behalf. And that answers the question I see in our text tonight, “what had the Jews heard?” What they had heard was that Jesus had made purification for their sins. And that was what they needed to pay much closer attention to lest they neglect it and drift away from it. It was as though the author was saying to these people, “I don’t think you heard what I’m saying. I don’t think you’re listening to what the gospel is saying to you. Your very souls are hanging in the balance and you’re considering going back to the law of Moses? The law of Moses isn’t an option one can take in order to be made right with God. It is how we learn what sin is and it points us to the Savior. The law of Moses can’t save anyone. It is a burden that none of the Hebrew fathers could bear. Your own Messiah, the Christ, Jesus of Nazareth, said this about living under the law, <sup>28</sup> *“Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest.*

<sup>29</sup> *“Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS.*

<sup>30</sup> *“For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.” (Matt. 11:28-30 NAU)*

I would guess that at least some of the Jews who read this letter felt what I feel as I’m reading it and that’s a definite sense of finality.

**Hebrews 2:1** *For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away from it.*

<sup>2</sup> *For if the word spoken through angels proved unalterable, and every transgression and disobedience received a just penalty,*

<sup>3</sup> *how will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? (Heb. 2:1-3 NAU)* And that is God’s final answer.

The gist of what these Hebrews had heard is summed up in chapter 1 and v.3, <sup>3</sup> *And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. **When He had made purification of sins,** He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, (Heb. 1:3 NAU)*

This Man Jesus is God Incarnate. This Man Jesus is omnipotent. He upholds all things by the word of His power. And you’re going to

debate whether or not to worship Him? *every transgression and disobedience received a just penalty*, Seriously? You dare think you can do better?"

<sup>3</sup> *how will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? We won't. We won't escape if we refuse so great a salvation.*

It's the blood of Jesus that made purification of our sins, not the blood of bulls and goats.

It is our High Priest Jesus Christ who intercedes for us, not the priests after the order of Aaron and the Levites.

The purification of sins was a once-for-all act. *For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard*, the "we" in that sentence referring to the Hebrews, and what they had heard was the gospel. And the author makes it plain that it was the Christ who had made purification of sins. And these Jews wanted to go back to sacrificing animals?

The message of this letter is "if you reject His finished work, you will find yourself standing before the Judge of all the earth and then cast into the lake of fire." <sup>26</sup> *For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins,* <sup>27</sup> *but a terrifying expectation of judgment and THE FURY OF A FIRE WHICH WILL CONSUME THE ADVERSARIES.*

<sup>28</sup> *Anyone who has set aside the Law of Moses dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses.* <sup>29</sup> *How much severer punishment do you think he will deserve who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and has regarded as unclean the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has insulted the Spirit of grace? (Heb. 10:26-29 NAU)*

So, those who have heard the gospel and rejected it and those who have yet to hear the gospel and who will likewise reject it are guilty of trampling the Son of God underfoot, regarding His blood as unclean, and blaspheming the Holy Spirit. There's nothing anyone can do for these people after they have done that. They have been washed away. <sup>27</sup> *And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment,*

<sup>28</sup> *so Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time for salvation without reference to sin, to those who eagerly await Him. (Heb. 9:27-28 NAU)*

***Hebrews 2:1*** *For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away from it.*

Can you, beloved, see the sense of finality and the sense of urgency in that verse and especially in v.3?

Pay close attention to what you have heard, and you will not drift away, you will not be washed away.

<sup>14</sup> *Guard, through the Holy Spirit who dwells in us, the treasure which has been entrusted to you. (2 Tim. 1:14 NAU)*

This is how I interpret verse 2, and I'm going to close with this, **Every transgression and disobedience, without exception, received a just penalty.**

<sup>2</sup> *For if the word spoken through angels proved unalterable, and it did prove to be unalterable, we cannot add to it or take away from it, and every transgression and disobedience received a just penalty, and every transgression and disobedience did receive a just penalty, <sup>3</sup> how will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? And the answer was and is, we will not escape. No one will.*

Let me show you or remind you of how vile and despicable people without Christ are in the eyes of God. But keep in mind that Jesus Christ died for these people.

<sup>19</sup> *Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality,*

<sup>20</sup> *idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions,*

<sup>21</sup> *envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. (Gal. 5:19-21 NAU)*

<sup>9</sup> *Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals,*  
<sup>10</sup> *nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God.*  
 (1 Cor. 6:9-10 NAU)

<sup>28</sup> *And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper,*  
<sup>29</sup> *being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; they are gossips,*  
<sup>30</sup> *slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents,*  
<sup>31</sup> *without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful;*  
<sup>32</sup> *and although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them.*  
 (Rom. 1:28-32 NAU)

We cannot know from this letter how many of the Jews repented and trusted in Christ. What we can know is that by the grace and mercy and love of God, all who have trusted in Christ have already been delivered from the wrath to come. *to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, that is Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath to come.* (1 Thess. 1:10 NAU)

<sup>16</sup> *"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.*

<sup>17</sup> *"For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.*

(Jn. 3:16-17 NAU)

