

v1 We must pay more careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away. v2 For if the message spoken by angels was binding, and every violation and disobedience received its just punishment, v3 how shall we escape if we ignore such a great salvation? This salvation, which was first announced by the Lord, was confirmed to us by those who heard him. v4 God also testified to it by signs, wonders and various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will. Hebrews 2:1-4

I was wondering if you would help me with a very important debate that happens in many of the cars of our country, and I am sure around the world? The question is simply this: **How do you react when people do something illegal or drive erratically around you?**

In our family we have two different reactions.

Patricia, sits patiently, and allows the incident to pass, and says, “God will hold them to account” or “I could never do anything to change their behaviour, so why should I get stressed about it.”

I, on the other hand, climb on the hooter (that’s a horn for those Americans listening), and shout at the errant driver. I am ready to get out the car to show the other driver the error of their ways. (On the one occasion I actually did this, the guy that got out the other car was 15 cm taller and has the toned body of a weightlifter. Good thing I am relatively quick thinking, and can talk fairly well, BECAUSE, he got the sternest lecture an older man could give a younger man possible).

Patricia, I have to grudgingly agree with, when she says, the only people that hear the shouting are those in the car, and the only person hurt is me with a spike in my blood pressure.

Why am I using this introduction today? The simple reason is this;

## **HOW DO WE REACT WHEN PEOPLE IGNORE JESUS?**

I’m sad to say, the church in general is silent about the growth in evil in our world. I am not talking about the institution of the church, I am talking about TRUE BELIEVERS who are the CHURCH UNIVERSAL!!!

I am sure we have all hear the saying, “*The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.*” attributed to Edmund Burke (Irish Statesman)

Friends, evil is triumphing in our country. All we hear of is scandal after scandal. Whether it is in Government or Business, in Society or Church, evil prospers.

Today I want to try answer the following question from the verses we read:

## **IF IT’S ALL ABOUT JESUS WHAT SHOULD WE DO AS CHRISTIANS**

**1) If it's ALL about JESUS we should DO SOMETHING.**

*Hebrews 2:1a "We must ...." "Therefore **we ought**" (KJV)*

The Greek word translated as "we must" or "we ought" means "*it is binding, it is necessary, it is proper; it is inevitable*", and is used 102 in the bible.

*John 3:7 Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'*

*John 20:9 for as yet they did not understand the Scripture **that he must rise from the dead.***

The point of the use of this word is that GOD WILL NEVER FORCE YOU OR I TO DO SOMETHING FOR HIM, HOWEVER **WE SHOULD**.

One of the greatest frustrations' pastors face in the ministry, is that the church is a Volunteer Organisation. People can decide if they want to do anything in the church or not do anything. Now the workplace is different. If your boss told you to do something, and you refused, you soon will be working for another boss.

As believers we ought to work for God. BUT GOD WILL NEVER FORCE YOU TO WORK FOR HIM.

**2) If it's ALL about JESUS we should PAY CLOSER ATTENTION.**

*Hebrews 2:1a "We must pay more careful attention...."*

The Greek words translated as "pay more careful attention" means we must pay attention to a MUCH HIGHER DEGREE that we do.

While we read in *2 Corinthians 4:4 "The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God."*, this is becoming true of Christians as well.

Friend, JESUS IS COMING AGAIN, are we aware that many are going to go to a Christless eternity because we are not paying closer attention to the times.

When I did my Military Service we had an Officer who would say the following to us when we were not paying attention. He knew that not paying attention in a battle situation could get you killed. He would shout "CATCH A WAKE-UP!!!"

**CHURCH "CATCH A WAKE-UP"**

**3) If it's ALL about JESUS we should HEAR WHAT WE HEARD!**

*Hebrews 2:1 "We must pay more careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard,"*

Patricia is often accusing me of losing my hearing. She says, "BUT I TOLD YOU SO." And I have to remind her, I am not losing my hearing, I'm getting more selective in my hearing.

WE ALL HAVE A PROBLEM WITH SELECTIVE HEARING!! Just watch a child that has been told to pick up their toys, or a Teenager who has been told to do their homework, or a husband who has been told to take out the garbage.

How many times have you read a passage on many occasions, only to say one day; "NOW I KNOW!"

4) **If it's ALL about JESUS we should BE CAREFUL NOT TO DRIFT AWAY.**

*Hebrews 2:1 "We must pay more careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, **so that we do not drift away.**"*

I am sure we have all heard the urban legend about the **BOILING FROG.**  
**(DO NOT DO THIS AT HOME)**

The story simply is, If you put a frog in cold water and slowly warm the water up the frog will not make as much of an effort to get out as it would if you threw it into a pot of boiling water.

What Scientists have discovered, is, that this is more likely to happen to humans that it is to frogs!!!

HOWEVER, the PRINCIPLE IS TRUE IN PASSIONS.

IF YOU DON'T FEED A PASSION, IT IS LIKELY TO DIE.

**NOW LISTEN TO A SPIRITUAL TRUTH.**

THE RICHER YOU GET THE GREATER THE CHANCE OF YOU LOSING YOUR PASSION FOR CHRIST.

*Revelation 3:15-18 I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! v16 So, **because you are lukewarm--neither hot nor cold--I am about to spit you out of my mouth. v17 You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.'** But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. v18 I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see.*

One of the great dangers facing the Church since the start of the Covid-19 Pandemic is that many have got so used to NON-CONTACT Christianity, that local churches are beginning to suffer. Many say that they can listen to much better teaching from the comfort of their home. LET US NOT FORGET, someone may need to hear from you, rather than you from them. "Iron sharpens Iron."

5) **If it's ALL about JESUS we should REALISE THERE IS NO OTHER WAY!!!**

*Hebrews 2:2-3a v2 For if the message spoken by angels was binding, and every violation and disobedience received its just punishment, v3 **how shall we escape if we ignore such a great salvation?***

Over the last two weeks we have been reminded about two incredible principles

**JESUS IS LORD IN THE HEAVENLIES**

- 1) Jesus is Lord in the heavenlies **BECAUSE HE ALONE IS ABLE TO FILL THE ROLE OF GOD.**
- 2) Jesus is Lord in the heavenlies **BECAUSE HE PRECEEDS CREATION.**
- 3) Jesus is Lord in the heavenlies **BECAUSE NO ONE ELSE LOOKS LIKE GOD.**
- 4) Jesus is Lord in the heavenlies **BECAUSE HIS POWER KNOWS NO END.**
- 5) Jesus is Lord in the heavenlies **BECAUSE NONE OTHER CAN SAVE US.**

- 6) Jesus is Lord in the heavenlies **BECAUSE HE IS IN THE POSITION OF POWER.**
- 7) Jesus is Lord in the heavenlies **BECAUSE HIS WHOLE IDENTITY IS SUPERIOR TO OTHERS.**

## **JESUS IS SUPERIOR TO THE ANGELS**

- 1) Jesus is SUPERIOR to the angels BECAUSE HIS NAME IS SUPERIOR.
- 2) Jesus is SUPERIOR to the angels BECAUSE HE ALONE IS DIRECT FAMILY.
- 3) Jesus is SUPERIOR to the angels BECAUSE ONLY HE CAN RECEIVE WORSHIP.
- 4) Jesus is SUPERIOR to the angels BECAUSE HIS WORK HAS ETERNAL CONSEQUENCE.
- 5) Jesus is SUPERIOR to the angels BECAUSE HE NEVER TURNED HIS BACK ON GOD.
- 6) Jesus is SUPERIOR to the angels BECAUSE HE IS CREATOR, EVERYTHING ELSE IS CREATION.
- 7) Jesus is SUPERIOR to the angels BECAUSE HE ALONE WON THE VICTORY.

**NOW** if JESUS IS LORD IN THE HEAVENLIES and if JESUS IS SUPERIOR TO THE ANGELS

*v3 how shall we escape if we ignore such a great salvation?*

- 6) **If it's ALL about JESUS we should RECOGNISE THE EVIDENCE BEFORE US.**

## **WHAT IS THE EVIDENCE? *This salvation***

1. *was first announced by the Lord*
2. *was confirmed to us by those who heard him*
3. *God also testified to it by signs, wonders and various miracles,*
4. *gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.*

v3b .... This salvation, which was first announced by the Lord, was confirmed to us by those who heard him. v4 God also testified to it by signs, wonders and various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will. Hebrews 2:3b-4

## **IF IT'S ALL ABOUT JESUS WHAT SHOULD WE DO AS CHRISTIANS**

- 1) **If it's ALL about JESUS we should DO SOMETHING.**
- 2) **If it's ALL about JESUS we should PAY CLOSER ATTENTION.**
- 3) **If it's ALL about JESUS we should HEAR WHAT WE HEARD!**
- 4) **If it's ALL about JESUS we should BE CAREFUL NOT TO DRIFT AWAY.**
- 5) **If it's ALL about JESUS we should REALISE THERE IS NO OTHER WAY!!!**
- 6) **If it's ALL about JESUS we should RECOGNISE THE EVIDENCE BEFORE US.**

**CHURCH "CATCH A WAKE-UP"**