

STUDYING THE BOOK OF HEBREWS
IN SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Lesson 2 - Warning to Pay Attention - Hebrews 2:1-4

Read the following verses in the New International Version or a translation of your choice. Then discuss the questions that follow. Questions should be studied by each individual before your discussion group meets.

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HEB 2:1 We must pay more careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away. [2] For if the message spoken by angels was binding, and every violation and disobedience received its just punishment, [3] 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. [4] God also testified to it by signs, wonders and various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 2 - Warning to Pay Attention - Hebrews 2:1-4

19. What did the writer of Hebrews want his readers to pay attention to? (2:1)
20. What danger awaits Christians who carelessly forget the truth? (2:1)
21. What happened to those who violated the "message spoken by angels" (that is, the Mosaic Law)? (2:2)
22. Who played a major role in delivering the Mosaic Law? (2:2)
23. What are the consequences for those who pay no attention to the gospel? (2:3)
24. Who revealed the message of "great salvation" to the world? How? (2:3)
25. Who confirmed the salvation that Jesus announced? How? (2:3-4)
26. What did God do to validate the gospel message? (2:4)
27. How did God distribute gifts of the Holy Spirit? (2:4)
28. What is the role of each member of the Trinity in delivering the gospel message? (2:3-4)

Lesson 3 - Jesus Made Like His Brothers - Hebrews 2:5-18

HEB 2:5 It is not to angels that he has subjected the world to come, about which we are speaking. [6] But there is a place where someone has testified:

"What is man that you are mindful of him,
the son of man that you care for him?"

HEB 2:7 You made him a little lower than the angels;
you crowned him with glory and honor

HEB 2:8 and put everything under his feet."

In putting everything under him, God left nothing that is not subject to him. Yet at present we do not see everything subject to him. [9] But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

HEB 2:10 In bringing many sons to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the author of their salvation perfect through suffering. [11] Both the one who makes men holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers. [12] He says,

"I will declare your name to my brothers;
in the presence of the congregation I will sing your praises."

HEB 2:13 And again,

"I will put my trust in him."

And again he says,

"Here am I, and the children God has given me."

HEB 2:14 Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death--that is, the devil-- [15] and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. [16] For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham's descendants. [17] For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for* the sins of the people. [18] Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 3 - Jesus Made Like His Brothers - Hebrews 2:5-18

29. What is our God-given place on earth? (2:6-8)
30. What is the relationship between Jesus Christ and the rest of the universe? (2:8)
31. What is Christ's present heavenly status? (2:9)
32. What actions by Christ led to His current exalted position at the right hand of God? (2:9)
33. What was unique about the death that Christ suffered? (2:9)
34. What is God's ultimate goal for us? (2:10)
35. What does Christ do to qualify a person for membership in the family of God? (2:11)
36. What is the relationship between Christ and those who experience the salvation He gives? (2:11-12)
37. What effect did the death of Christ have on Satan and his power? (2:14)
38. What effect did the death of Christ have on those who were enslaved to the fear of death? (2:15)
39. In what ways is Christ like us? (2:14, 17)
40. What makes Christ especially qualified to help Christians when they are being tempted? (2:18)