

“Drift, Neglect, and a Great Salvation”

Hebrews 2:1-4

July 30, 2023

Hebrews 2:1-4 *Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it.² For since the message declared by angels proved to be reliable, and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution,³ how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? 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.*

INTRO ... *Drifting & Neglecting*

Drift, Neglect ...and the Realignment of Our Ideas

... **The Concept of "DRIFT" is Related to the concept of "ALIGNMENT"** ...ie, there is Something to be "Aligned" with, something to "drift from"; there is Something that is a "Calibrating Reference Point" for our existence—a **TRUE NORTH** [*Thus, the Bible is Concerned about Drifting Because it is Concerned about Alignment! ...which may be hard to grasp in a culture that thinks there are very few absolutes!*]

— “Where am I Getting My Sense of “ALIGNMENT”? What is THE Defining thing about My Life?

WARNING: We Live in a “Jack Sparrow Age”

“One of the best places to see what passes for common sense is the graduation ceremony... You’re probably familiar with the inspiring words you hear at these events, even though you can’t remember the specifics because, unless they were out of the ordinary, they offered up the usual commonsensical fare about the future: ‘Follow your heart’ ... ‘Chase your dreams’ ... ‘You are enough’ ... ‘You do you’ ... ‘No matter what, be true to yourself’... If you were to discern a main point from graduation ceremonies across the United States, you’d come up with something like this: ‘the purpose of life is to discover yourself by looking deep down, and then express yourself to the world, no matter what anyone else—family members, friends, colleagues, previous generations, or religious institutions—might say.’” **Trevin Wax**, *Rethink Yourself- The Power of Looking Up Before Looking In*, p. 2

“Why does everyone just nod along to the idea that the purpose of life is to ‘be true to yourself’ and ‘chase your dreams’ and ‘follow your hearts,’ as if the message is so obviously true that it would be silly to question it? Because most people in our society view themselves and the world like this: you look IN, then AROUND, and then UP. The default setting for people in our society is to figure out life according to these priorities. In other words, we first look inside ourselves, then look around to others, and then (usually, but not always) look up to God or some higher power. Look in, around, and then up.” **Trevin Wax**, *Rethink Yourself - The Power of Looking Up Before Looking In*, p. 10

What Exactly am I “Drifting” from and What Exactly Am I “Neglecting” in Heb. 2?

“This Great Salvation”

“**This Great Salvation**” ...it is “what we have heard” (v. 1) ...it is “the message declared by angels” (v. 2)

v. 3-4 *...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.*

Heb 1:1-2 *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, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.*

“Salvation means, in broadest terms, deliverance from evil: rescue, that is, from a state of jeopardy and misery into one of safety and therefore of joy.” J.I. Packer, *Jesus Christ the Only Saviour*, (Collected Short Writings, vol. 1)

“**Salvation**” = σωτηρία sōtēria; rescue or safety (physically or morally): — deliverance, health, safety, preservation, salvation, saving.

... EVERYONE is Looking for THESE!!

Isaiah 45:18-22 For thus says the LORD,
who created the heavens (he is God!),
who formed the earth and made it
(he established it;
he did not create it empty,
he formed it to be inhabited!):
“I am the LORD, and there is no other.

¹⁹ I did not speak in secret,
in a land of darkness;
I did not say to the offspring of Jacob,
‘Seek me in vain.’

I the LORD speak the truth;
I declare what is right.

²⁰ “Assemble yourselves and come;
draw near together,
you survivors of the nations!
They have no knowledge
who carry about their wooden idols,
and keep on praying to a god
that cannot save.

²¹ Declare and present your case;
let them take counsel together!
Who told this long ago?
Who declared it of old?
Was it not I, the LORD?

And there is **no other god** besides me,
a righteous God and a Savior;
there is none besides me.

²² “Turn to me and be saved,
all the ends of the earth!
For I am God, and **there is no other.**”

Preexisting Divine Purpose is all around us! ...Man
Can DRIFT from & NEGLECT this Purpose!

There is TRUTH! There is RIGHT! ...We are
created to be ALIGNED with Something!

God’s Commentary on Man’s Ideas & Efforts: Man
creates things and then looks to what his own hands
have made to SAVE him!

“NO OTHER”— Salvation is Unique &
Exclusive! ...It has a “no other” nature! ...a
“no substitute” nature

...**What would make anyone “NEGLECT” this Great Salvation?—a substitute salvation!** ...an IDOL of my own making or of pop-culture’s making! ...Something I look to in the hope of finding “rescue, deliverance, safety, health... salvation”

Jeremiah 2:26-28 “As a thief is shamed when caught,
so the house of Israel shall be shamed:
they, their kings, their officials,
their priests, and their prophets,
²⁷ who say to a tree, ‘You are my father,’
and to a stone, ‘You gave me birth.’
For they have turned their back to me,
and not their face.
But in the time of their trouble they say,
‘Arise and save us!’
²⁸ But where are your gods

that you made for yourself?

Let them arise, if they can save you,
in your time of trouble;
for as many as your cities
are your gods, O Judah.

SALVATION is SINGULAR! —It Always Has Been!

Luke 1:68-69 *“Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
for he has visited and redeemed his people
⁶⁹ and has raised up a horn of salvation for us
in the house of his servant David...”*

Matthew 1:21 *She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”*

Luke 2:28-32 *he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,
²⁹ “Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace,
according to your word;
³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation
³¹ that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and for glory to your people Israel.”*

... Salvation is a PERSON!

Genesis 3:15 *I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and her offspring;
he shall bruise your head,
and you shall bruise his heel.”*

...When Evil Enters the World Through the Serpent—It is a PERSON who will be man’s
SALVATION!

...Where did Israel’s “NEGLECT” come from? ...from Seeking Salvation Somewhere Else!

“The Bible’s answer is that the human heart is an “idol factory.” When most people think of “idols” they have in mind literal statues—or the next pop star anointed by Simon Cowell. Yet while traditional idol worship still occurs in many places of the world, internal idol worship, within the heart is universal. In Ezekiel 14:3, God says about elders of Israel, ‘These men have set up their idols in their hearts.’ Like us, the elders must have responded to this charge, ‘Idols? What idols? I don’t see any idols.’ God was saying that the human heart takes good things like a successful career, love, material possessions, even family, and turns them into ultimate things. Our hearts deify them as the center of our lives, because, we think they can give us significance and security, safety and fulfillment, if we attain them.” **Timothy Keller**, Counterfeit Gods, p. xiv

...these are the words of “Salvation” (security, safety, health, etc)

...Neglect Happens when we LOOK TO something else to “Save Us”!

Haggai 1:1-9 *“...the word of the LORD came by the hand of Haggai the prophet to Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest: ² “Thus says the LORD of hosts: These people say the time has not yet come to rebuild the house of the LORD.” ³ Then the word of the LORD came by the hand of Haggai the prophet, ⁴ “Is it a time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses, while this house lies in ruins? ⁵ Now, therefore, thus says the LORD of hosts: Consider your ways. ⁶ You have sown much, and harvested little. You eat, but you never have enough; you drink, but you never have your fill. You clothe yourselves, but no one is warm. And he who earns wages does so to put them into a bag with holes.*

⁷ *“Thus says the LORD of hosts: Consider your ways. ⁸ Go up to the hills and bring wood and build the house, that I may take pleasure in it and that I may be glorified, says the LORD. ⁹ You looked for much, and behold, it came to little. And when you brought it home, I blew it away. Why? declares the LORD of hosts. Because of my house that lies in ruins, while each of you busies himself with his own house.*

Heb 2:1 *Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it.*

Heb 10:23-25 *Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.²⁴
And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works,²⁵ not neglecting to meet
together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another...*