

Hebrews 2:1-18 ESV

# Are You Remaining Focused on Jesus?

Sunday, October 4 at 8:00 & 10:45 + Monday, October 5 at 7 PM

19<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost / 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity – 2015

**Introduction:** Dear friends in Christ: As we live in this world, *which is sinful and temporary*, it is easy for us to drift away from our Savior. So let us ♦hear, ♦understand, and ♦respond to God’s Holy Word as we turn to the book of Hebrews.

Chapter 1 tells of the *greatness* of God’s Son: He ♦**is** the one through whom God created all things, ♦**is** far superior to the angels, ♦**sustains** the universe, and ♦**is** the heir of all things.

1. **Let Us Pay Attention to Jesus:** <sup>1</sup> **Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it.** // So people have heard, “Don’t text and drive,” *yet they do!* Or, “Read the Bible and pray every day”, *yet they don’t!* Since it is so easy to drift away, let us receive some encouragement:
  - a. Think about the past: <sup>2</sup> **For since the message declared by angels** [*a reference to the Ten Commandments, Acts 7:53*] **proved to be reliable, and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution** [*punishment*], <sup>3</sup> **how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation?** // So the logic is from the *lesser* to the *greater*; the commandments are the *lesser*, the good news of Jesus is the *greater!* The Bible says regarding the *lesser*: “Anyone who has set aside the Law of Moses dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. [Then about the

greater:]} <sup>29</sup> How much severer punishment do you think he will deserve who has trampled under foot 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. 10:28-29 NAS)

- b. Think about salvation: **It was declared at first by the Lord [Jesus], and it was attested to us by those who heard [what He proclaimed], <sup>4</sup> while God [the Father] also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.** // So this salvation – *that we could easily drift away from* – is not just hearsay, *but has been powerfully proclaimed and proven!* As we daily lock our doors for the safety of our bodies, *so let us daily focus on Jesus for the safety of our souls!*
- c. Think about Jesus' position and death: <sup>5</sup> **For it was not to angels that God subjected the world to come, of which we are speaking. <sup>6</sup> It has been testified somewhere** [*that is, in Psalm 8:4-6*],

**"What is man, that you are mindful of him, or the son of man, that you care for him? <sup>7</sup> You made him for a little while lower than the angels; you have crowned him with glory and honor, <sup>8</sup> putting everything in subjection under his feet."** // God said to Adam and Eve: "...have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth" (Gen. 1:28 ESV). So *their dominion* pointed ahead to *Jesus' ultimate dominion* over everything!

**Now in putting everything in subjection to him** [Matt. 28:18], **he left nothing outside his control. At present, we do not yet see** [with our physical eyes] **everything in subjection to him** [but we know it is true by faith].<sup>9</sup> **But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death** [Phil. 2:8-11], **so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.** // So Jesus is not one among many popular people – *like our president or the pope*; instead, He, *though completely innocent*, suffered death for everyone. So He is worthy of our *daily close attention!*

- d. Think about Jesus' confession of those who trust in Him:<sup>10</sup> **For it was fitting that he** [Jesus], **for whom and by whom all things exist** [Col. 1:16], **in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering.** [What does that mean? *"As God's eternal Son, Jesus demonstrated complete obedience to the Father through His suffering. Just as a test may show that a student has perfect or complete knowledge of a topic, the cross showed that Jesus completely obeyed the Father's will"* (TLSB, 2107).]<sup>11</sup> **For he who sanctifies** [Jesus] **and those who are sanctified** [people] **all have one source** [God the Father]. **That is why he** [Jesus] **is not ashamed to call them** [those who believe in Him] **brothers,**<sup>12</sup> **saying** [from Psalm 22:22], **"I will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will sing your praise."**<sup>13</sup> **And again** [similar to Psalm 18:2; Isaiah 8:17; 12:2], **"I will put my trust in him."** **And again** [from Isaiah 8:18], **"Behold, I and the children God has given me."** // Since Jesus is so great yet confesses us to be His own, *let us grow in trusting and obeying Him in our lives!*

## 2. **Let Us Rejoice in our Blessings through Jesus:**

- a. We are free from the fear of death: <sup>14</sup> **Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself [God's only Son] likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, <sup>15</sup> and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. <sup>16</sup> For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham.** // So we were dead in our sins and, *if we really thought about it*, dreading death. But now, *by grace through faith*, we are Abraham's offspring and know that *when we die* we will be absent from the body *but present with the Lord* (2 Cor. 5:8)!
- b. We have Jesus' help in every temptation: <sup>17</sup> **Therefore he [Jesus] had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people [offering Himself as the sacrifice for our sins]. <sup>18</sup> For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.** // Think about ➡ who Jesus is, ➡ what He endured, and ➡ what He accomplished; now ➡ we are saved through Him, ➡ He is praying for us, and ➡ we are greatly blessed!

**Conclusion:** Therefore, let us ➡ draw closer to Him, ➡ rejoice in our blessings, and ➡ gladly obey Him! And all God's people said: **Amen!**