

## STICK WITH JESUS

Hebrews 2:1-14

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### How do we Stick with Jesus?

These verses make sobering reading

As it shares with us the warning of drifting away from the truth of who Jesus is.

The first thing we need to do is to ..

#### **1. LISTEN TO HIM.**

*2:1 We must pay the most careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard.*

##### **a. Pay Attention**

We must be more intense, we must be more passionate about the fact that it's Jesus, God's Son, greater than the angels, who is addressing us.

We must pray for God's help and use all our effort to tune in to God's words here.

That's why we pray before we read God's word – to help us to not be distracted and to focus on the things we need to focus on.

##### **b. Hear and Obey**

One thing that our modern translations fail to get across about hearing, is that both to hear and to obey, well they're like 2 sides of the same coin.

If you have grown up in a Christian family you may have heard lots of stories of Jesus and may even be familiar with his sayings and coming along to church for years. Has that hearing made it as far as your obedience? Are you just familiar with what the Bible says without actually letting it change you? To hear Jesus is pointless if it is not met with your obedience as well.

##### **c. Don't Drift**

The whole thrust of the argument here is if you're not paying careful attention you will begin maybe slowly at first to drift away.

The word in the original is also used to describe a stream flowing off, meandering away, the current taking it far out of sight.

Notice how it's not swept away, as in a storm, or blown away as in a hurricane. It's drifting, slowly and without much drama.

Are you drifting?

Did it feel like once upon a time being a Christian was exciting and absolutely central to who you are as a human being, but those times are long gone. Friends let this be God's grace to us to wake us up if that's where we find ourselves this morning.

This is why we have these verses, because God cares about us drifting away and does not want it to happen.

## **2. LOOK TO HIM.**

### **a. Judgment**

*2:2 For since the message spoken through angels was binding, and every violation and disobedience received its just punishment.*

What the writer to the Hebrews is describing here is the giving of the Law from Mount Sinai.

Hebrews says that this law as with any law had consequences when it was broken. There would be judgement.

Hebrews says a significant part in helping us to Stick with Jesus is found in remembering the judgment we were rescued from.

God's justice means that he will not let sin go unpunished.

### **b. Great Salvation**

*2:3 how shall we escape if we ignore so great a salvation?*

If we ignore the greater way of being put right with God.

How much worse off will we be!

Hebrews is saying that the most dangerous approach to thinking about our salvation is just by not being that bothered about it.

Perhaps you feel the pressure to ignore it.

You feel the stress and pressure from work, or from the family or your friends, at school, and getting excited about salvation just seems a bit farfetched.

If we ignore what Jesus offers us through the cross, we are in big trouble, make no mistake.

There is a judgment for those who haven't turned to God.

But there is also complete forgiveness found in Jesus.

Please - don't ignore it.

## **3. TRUST IN HIM**

### **a. Grace Announced**

*2:3b This salvation, which was first announced by the Lord,*

Jesus was the one who announced the message of the gospel to those who heard him.

In Mark 2:15 Jesus says: '15 "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!"'

But he was also the one who made it possible - through his death on the cross.

Later on in Hebrews is written 'so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many;'

The salvation that Jesus offers was verified by Him.

He is both the messenger, and the saviour.

This is the grace that we need to remember if we're going to Stick with Jesus.

Grace and salvation go hand in hand.

Because grace shows us that it is not by our good deeds, but by trusting in Jesus that we experience salvation.

Grace helps us stick to Jesus, by showing that he was and still is prepared to stick with us!

### **b. Grace Confirmed**

The Hebrews were second generation believers, who had not seen Jesus personally, but had been visited by people who had.

Surely it would be so much easier to stick with Jesus if I could just see Him. This is why his words in John 20:29 to the disciple Thomas are so important to sustain us as believers: *Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."*

God hasn't left us in the dark, but confirmed to us through his word the salvation that Jesus gives us.

### **c. Grace Given**

*2:4 God also testified to it by signs, wonders and various miracles, and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.*

Finally, the writer to the Hebrews says that it wasn't just the message that proved it was real.

But rather God showed His grace in testifying to the truthfulness of this message through supernatural means.

We are meant to take '*signs, wonders and various miracles*' to include all the wonderful ways that the Holy Spirit worked through the Apostles to show that the message they were preaching was true and from God.

So, if you really want to make sure that you are not drifting away from Jesus.

1. Listen to what He says in his Word, paying careful attention to Him
2. Look to Him, as the only one who can rescue you,
3. And finally Trust in Him as the one who gives us grace.

It really is worth sticking with Jesus.