

“THE PLAN OF SALVATION”

Hebrews 2:1-4

Message 1589

Men through the years have tried to devise their own way to God. They have not been successful. They've tried, but they have not been able to find their own way to God. Only when God put His plan into action could anyone really come to Him. Isn't it wonderful that God would be merciful enough to put His plan into action so that you and I can come to Him?

Where shall we look for His plan? Well, praise the Lord! He has revealed **THE PLAN OF SALVATION** in the Bible. And that's the reason why we must read the Bible. The Scripture portion for this meditation is Hebrews 2:1-4

1. Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip.
2. For if the word spoken by angels was steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward;
3. How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him;
4. God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?

From the argument of the writer in this text we easily detect several strong **EXHORTATIONS** regarding the plan of salvation. Here they are:

GIVE DILIGENCE is the first strong exhortation. I want you to notice the writer says we ought to give the more earnest heed. That word “ought” carries a strong exhortation. There is not much opportunity for any other approach. This means that we have no other choices. If we want to understand the plan of salvation, we must give diligence to what God has said.

This also carries considerable urgency because the writer tells us to give more earnest heed, not just passing interest, not just an idea, but pay attention, concentrate with careful listening. Because it is possible that these great truths of God's plan of salvation can slip from us. They can become covered up with many matters of lesser importance.

This exhortation to give diligence carries with it perseverance. It takes effort to give heed to these things we have heard. That's what our writer is impressing upon us. Give diligence, give earnest heed, because it is possible that these things may slip away from us.

My friend, I urge you to give attention to this strong exhortation from our text. Give diligence because there is an “ought” in it, there is an urgency in it, there is a perseverance in it. When we respond to the exhortation these truths cannot easily slip away from us.

TAKE WARNING is a related exhortation concerning God's plan of salvation. Violation against the righteous law of God requires a just recompense of reward. The writer brings us to the word spoken by angels. We can trace this in the giving of the law to Moses in the book of Exodus. When God came to the people of Israel, there were attending angels. Here we understand that the word spoken by angels is steadfast; it abides. Nobody could transgress and disobey that steadfast word without suffering the consequences.

But now that God has spoken by His Son, there is no escape! The question is, "How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord?" The word spoken by the Lord is not to be neglected. It is the word of truth. We ought to listen to this strong exhortation, take warning, because there is no escape if we neglect so great a salvation which God has brought.

NOTE CONFIRMATION is truly a strengthening exhortation in His plan of salvation. This text says it was first spoken by the Lord, and then was confirmed unto us by those who heard Him. We have records in the Bible of those who were there with the Lord when He was teaching. When He spoke, they were there. I refer to the disciples of Jesus.

But that is not all. God witnessed to the truth by bestowing upon them signs and wonders and different kinds of miracles and gifts of the Holy Spirit. A direct line was established from the Lord to the disciples and confirmed by the signs and wonders and different kinds of miracles and gifts.

This means that there is no other way. God's way is the only way. Yes, my friend, God's way is the only way. I said in the beginning that men through the years have tried to devise their own way to God. They have not been successful. If you and I want to find a way to God, we will need to take His way, the plan of salvation which He has outlined.

We should heed these exhortations so we don't miss God's plan of salvation: give diligence to what has been given, the things which we have heard; take warning not to neglect, because there is no escape if we neglect so great salvation; note the confirmation of God to those who heard Him in the signs which He bestowed upon them.

How shall we escape? There is no escape. There is no other way, than God's way. His plan of salvation is the only way.