

Hebrews 2:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

The Greek 'prosechein' (pay attention) introduces the first of five warning passages in Hebrews. The maritime metaphor 'lest we drift away' (pararryomen) pictures a ship drifting from its mooring due to neglect. If the law given through angels demanded strict obedience, how much more the salvation declared by the Lord Himself? This establishes a 'lesser to greater' argument central to Hebrews.

Historical Context

Jewish tradition (reflected in Acts 7:53, Galatians 3:19) held that angels mediated the Mosaic law at Sinai. First-century Jewish Christians faced pressure to abandon Christianity and return to Judaism, making this warning particularly urgent.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. In what areas of your spiritual life might you be drifting rather than actively pressing forward?

2. How does the superiority of Christ's message increase our accountability to respond?

Interlinear Text

Διὰ	τοῦτο	δεῖ	περισσοτέρως	ήμᾶς	προσέχειν	τοῖς
Therefore	G5124	ought	to give the more earnest	we	heed	G3588
G1223		G1163	G4056	G2248	G4337	
			ἀκουσθεῖσιν	μήποτε	παραρρύσωμεν	
			to the things which we have heard	lest	we should let them slip	
			G191	G3379	G3901	

Additional Cross-References

Luke 8:15 (Parallel theme): But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience.

Deuteronomy 4:9 (Parallel theme): Only take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life: but teach them thy sons, and thy sons' sons;

2 Peter 1:15 (Parallel theme): Moreover I will endeavour that ye may be able after my decease to have these things always in remembrance.

2 Peter 3:1 (Parallel theme): This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance:

Proverbs 3:21 (Parallel theme): My son, let not them depart from thine eyes: keep sound wisdom and discretion:

Psalms 119:9 (Parallel theme): Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word.

1 Chronicles 22:13 (Parallel theme): Then shalt thou prosper, if thou takest heed to fulfil the statutes and judgments which the LORD charged Moses with concerning Israel: be strong, and of good courage; dread not, nor be dismayed.

Hebrews 12:5 (Parallel theme): And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him:

Deuteronomy 4:23 (Parallel theme): Take heed unto yourselves, lest ye forget the covenant of the LORD your God, which he made with you, and make you a graven image, or the likeness of any thing, which the LORD thy God hath forbidden thee.

Mark 8:18 (Parallel theme): Having eyes, see ye not? and having ears, hear ye not? and do ye not remember?

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