

The Letter to the
Hebrews



Introduction

- Jesus is a better deliverer.
- The writer of Hebrews toggles between teaching about the Gospel and five warning passages.
- The readers were willing to replace Jesus with something else. He warns them against spiritual drift.

Don't Neglect Salvation

Hebrews 2:1-4

Pay Close Attention

- The readers are warned to pay much closer attention to the Gospel. This is the first of five warnings in Hebrews.
- Pay attention to the truth of the Gospel - it is like an anchor point in the ocean.
- If you are not anchored to it, you risk being carried away from it.

Spiritual Drift

- The writer uses this illustration of a boat that drifts to remind them that spiritual drift is inevitable.
- If it was a problem in the 1st century, imagine how much of a problem it is today.



Great Salvation

- We are challenged not to neglect a great salvation.
- The writer takes the readers back to the Old Testament - the phrase “message declared by the angels” is a reference to the Mosaic Law.
- It was delivered that way (Gal. 3:19).

Great Salvation

- As Jewish believers, they were familiar with the idea of breaking the Law.
- They knew there were consequences to disobedience.
- If you knew there were consequences to neglecting the Law, wouldn't neglecting the Gospel also bring consequences?

Neglect?

- Some Christians believe this passage is to warn non-believers that failure to accept Jesus carries consequences.
- The term used is “neglect” not “reject.”
- The readers heeded the message when first given, but now must also heed the message.

Don't Neglect

- With neglect comes real consequences.
- The consequences are more disturbing because it was Jesus Christ Himself (not just an angel) who delivered the message of salvation.
- If we drift from Jesus, the author says we are headed for disaster.

Question

- How many Christians do you know give sustained attention to their salvation - they love it, think about it, meditate on it, marvel at it?
- Do you live this way?
- It is easy in this world of distractions to neglect this great salvation.

Four Stages of Witness

1. God - verse 3 says it was first declared by the Lord, that is God the Father.
2. Christ - He is the Mediator, the go-between between God and man.
3. Apostles - attested by those who heard.
4. God - verse 4 - God also bore witness by signs and wonders.

Foundation

- How do these witnesses give a firm foundation for our faith?
- Any one of these signs might could be dismissed by a skeptical person.
- The collection of these four stages of witness further confirm the Gospel.

So Great a Salvation

- Three tenses of salvation:
 1. Justification - "I was saved"
 2. Sanctification - "I am being saved"
 3. Glorification - "I will be saved"
- What are you doing to prevent drift?

Jesus Accomplished
the Victory

Hebrews 2:5-9

Jesus - Angels

- Here the writer explains the role of Jesus in the work of salvation.
- Jesus is at the center of salvation and thus is greater than the angels.
- The focus is on “the world to come” which will be fulfilled with the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

Angels - Humans

- The writer here isn't trying to degrade the role of angels, but explain the different roles in God's economy.
- He quotes from Psalm 8:4-6 to remind us that we are not insignificant.
- We have dominion over all the earth (Genesis 1:26-27).

Jesus - Salvation

1. Jesus became man - "you made him for a little while lower than the angels."
2. Jesus suffered and died - "for all mankind" - "taste death for everyone."
3. Jesus was crowned with glory and honor - because of His sacrifice - because of His "suffering of death."

Who Rules the World?

- God gave this great salvation to us not to the angels.
- Who then rules the world? Psalm 8 reminds us that we are significant and that God has appointed us to rule over His creation - “putting everything in subjection under his feet.”

Who Rules the World?

- All things are not subjected to man now, but we can see what that might mean.
- We have great technologies that do allow us to control some of the creation.
- But we are still victims of floods and hurricanes and other disasters. Some day all will be in subjection to us.

Application

- The recipients of this letter faced trials and persecution.
- This bold prediction was a reminder of the things to come.
- We are reminded that in Christ, everything is in subjection to Him.

Jesus Became Man

Hebrews 2:10-18

Founder

- Jesus is the founder of salvation.
- This word is also translated “author” and even “captain.”
- It is used of a person who has founded a city or the founder of a family.
- Jesus was a trailblazer and an initiator.

Connected to Mankind

- Jesus was one of us and connects with us on the human level
- Jesus is also the Creator and sustainer of all life, including our lives.
- We see his connection to use through these three Old Testament passages.

Connected to Mankind

1. Jesus calls us brother - Psalm 22, a psalm he quotes when on the cross.
2. Jesus is worthy of our trust - Isaiah 8:17
3. Jesus links Himself to believers - we are the children of God (Isaiah 8:18) who belong to the Father.

Jesus Conquered Death

- (vs. 14-15) Jesus conquered death through death - became man to die.
- Satan controls unbelievers by the fear of death - he enslaves them to his will.
- We are no longer subject to that slavery because of the death of Jesus Christ on the cross.

Jesus is our Helper

- (vs. 16) Jesus lives forever as our helper.
- Satan is unarmed and impotent because of Jesus Christ.
- We enjoy the victory of Christ on the cross and also enjoy His ever-present help from Him when we need it.

Jesus - Temptation

- (vs. 17-18) Jesus helps us resist temptation because He suffered when tempted and is able to help us.
- Jesus is our helper still. He is poised to help with trials and with temptations.
- Jesus is a better helper because He understands our humanity.

Application

- The writer warns us of spiritual drift.
 - What are you doing to prevent this?
- Jesus can help us through trials and temptations.
 - Do you call on Him when you are facing trials or temptations?

QUESTIONS



TEN COMMANDMENTS



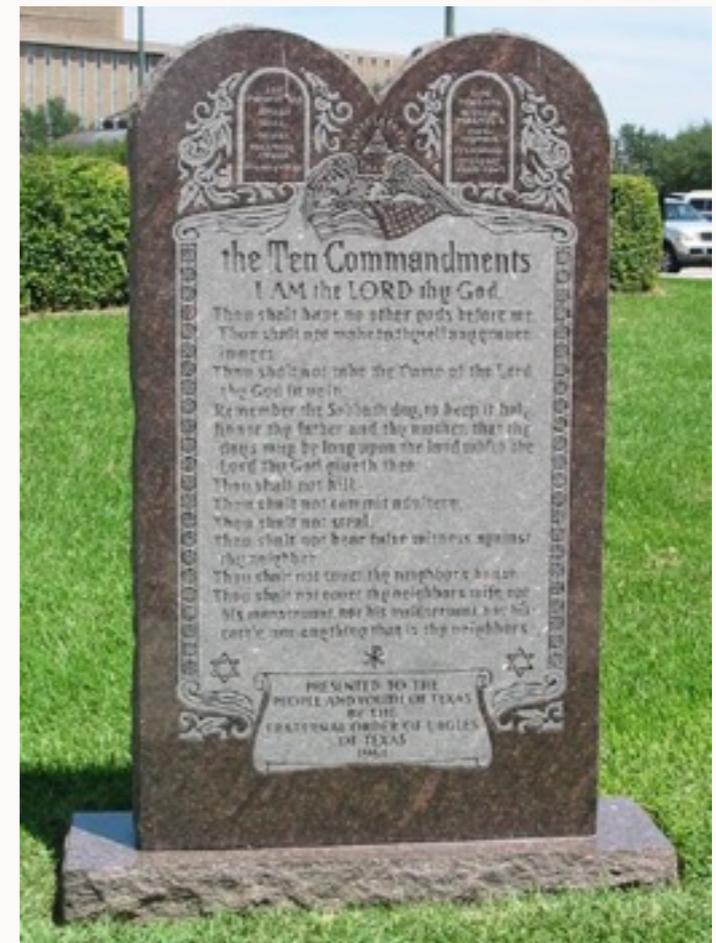
TEN COMMANDMENTS

- The state supreme court of Oklahoma ruled that the state must remove Ten Commandments monument.
- The court challenge began when the Satanic Temple wanted to place a bronze Baphomet sculpture at the state capitol.
- The ACLU originally brought suit in federal court and then in the state court.



TEN COMMANDMENTS

- The U.S. Supreme Court already ruled that the Ten Commandments in the Texas capitol is constitutional.
- The ACLU lawyers therefore brought suit in the state court.
- The judges ruled the monument was unconstitutional according Oklahoma constitution (based on the Blaine amendments).



TEN COMMANDMENTS

- The current plan is to move the monument to private property across the street.
- Then the Oklahoma legislature will pass legislation to invalidate Oklahoma's version of the Blaine amendment.
- After the legislation is passed and signed by the governor, they will move the monument back to its original place on the capitol grounds.

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY VICTORIES

- Ten Commandments - *Van Orden v. Perry*
- Cross cases - Mojave memorial cross - *Salazar v. Buono* and Mount Soledad cross - resolved, now owned by the Mount Soledad Veterans Memorial Association.
- Military - Chaplain Wes Modder vindicated by U.S. Navy.
- Churches - Opulent Springs (MS), Christian Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church (Houston)
- Senior's centers - Balch Springs, San Antonio Senior Center

