

DISCIPLESHIP DURING THE WEEK

These "Sermon Discussion Questions" are designed for study during the week for believers in a wide variety of ages & stages in their walk with Christ.

Scriptures for further study:
1 John 2:15-17

1. What have been the best ways for you to daily stay focused on Jesus in the past? Why? What are ways you can encourage someone this week to pay attention to Jesus?

Romans 1:16-17

Philippians 3:7-11

Philippians 4:8

2. After reviewing Hebrews 1:1-14, what are some things that stood out to you about the person and work of Jesus? What elements of the gospel, such as our justification or our adoption as children of God, do you need to be reminded of this week? If we cannot lose our salvation, why do we need to worry about drifting and why do we need to be reminded to pay attention to Jesus?

3. What gets in the way or causes you to forget how great a salvation we have in Christ? Why?

4. What gets in the way or causes you to forget how great a salvation we have in Christ? Why?

5. Take time to answer the Application questions from the sermon. What stands out to you from your answers?

Praise to Jesus

What caused you to worship God from this passage?

Repentance through Jesus- What did the Spirit bring to your mind that you need to confess from this passage? What are the things in your life that distract you the most from Jesus?

Consecration for Jesus – What daily practices do you want to put into practice this week? Ask the Spirit to give you the strength for this.

“Pastoral discipleship from the pulpit for you through the week.
Each of our pastors has designed content with you in mind.”

FOR FAMILIES AND YOUNG CHILDREN

If you want to connect with our family ministries, contact Pastor Ken (kenc@fpcrome.org)

1. Hebrews 2:1 instructs us to “pay attention to what we have heard”.
 - a. Explain that this refers to what the readers have heard about who Jesus is and His work as our Savior. Take time to discuss what we have learned in Hebrews 1:1-14 about Jesus. Ask your children what else they know about Jesus from the Bible.
 - b. Play a game such as “Red Light, Green Light” or “Simon Says” and then talk about the need to pay attention to win those games. In Hebrews 2:1 we are commanded to “pay attention”. Talk with your children about how we can pay attention to Jesus this week.
2. Hebrews 2:1 warns us that we need to pay attention “lest we drift away from it.” Ask your children if they know what it means to drift away. You could talk about the example of a stick that is thrown in a flowing river that goes downstream.
 - a. The author of Hebrews wants us to understand that if we don’t pay attention and stay focused on Christ then we could drift away from Him.
3. In verse 3 we read that as believers we have “such a great salvation” and are warned against neglecting it.
 - a. Ask your children what makes our salvation great.
 - b. Ask your children what their greatest Christmas present was this year and what made it so great.
 - c. Then ask them how they could neglect that Christmas gift.
 - d. Then go back to verse 3 and ask how we can neglect our salvation.
 - e. Also ask how we can encourage each other so that we don’t neglect our salvation.
 - f. Take time to pray for each member of your family about this.
4. In verses 3-4, the author reminds us of the reliability of the New Testament that bears witness to Jesus and our great salvation.
 - a. Ask your children what is listed to show the reliability of the New Testament in these verses. (The Lord Jesus declared this salvation first, then others such as the apostles testified to it, there were miracles that Jesus and the apostle did to bear witness to their preaching, and the Spirit gave spiritual gifts to each believer.)
 - b. Read 1 John 1:1-4, Luke 1:1-4, and 1 Corinthians 15:1-8 and talk about the reliability of the New Testament and where each of these writers got their information.

Big Idea

Because of the greatness of the salvation in Jesus Christ, we should daily look to Jesus in order to fight the drift away from Him.

Outline

1. Pay Attention (v.1)

2. How Great a Salvation (v.2-4)

- 3A. Do you understand how great a salvation we have in Jesus

- 3B. Are you daily paying attention to Jesus?

- 3C. What are you doing to fight the drift away from Jesus?

Praise to Jesus: Praise Him today for His amazing grace and His faithfulness. Thank God for sending these reminders that we can drift if we don't pay attention to Him.

Repentance through Jesus: Take time this week to ask for mercy for the times when you have forgotten how great a Savior we have in Jesus. Confess those times when you have been distracted from the supremacy of Jesus

Consecration for Jesus: Ask the Spirit to give you strength each day to stay focused on Jesus and to tell others about Him.

"A DRIFT WARNING"

Hebrews 2:1-4 ESV

1 Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. 2 For since the message declared by angels proved to be reliable, and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, 3 how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard, 4 while God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.

Main Themes in Hebrews

"The purpose of the author's discourse is to exhort the hearers to endure in their pursuit of the promised reward, in obedience to the word of God, and especially on the basis of their new covenant relationship with the Son."-Peter O'Brien, PNTC, 36.

"This is what the Book of Hebrews is about –the supremacy of Christ along with the sufficiency of his work and the necessity of faith in him for salvation...the writer warns Christians not to fall back from faith in Christ in the midst of trials and exhorts them instead to press on to full maturity."-Richard Phillips, REC, 6.

FOR STUDENTS

If you want to connect with our student ministries, contact Pastor Jimmy (jimmyl@fpcrome.org)

1. What are some steps you might need to take to keep yourself from drifting away and missing the message of salvation in Jesus?
2. Do you have a tendency to think that God is just and holy in the Old Testament, but not in the New? How does this passage correct that misconception?
3. What are we to "pay much closer attention to," and why? What is the significance of this phrase? Does it provide a theme for the chapter?
4. Whose message "proved to be reliable"?
5. How was the "great salvation" declared, and by whom? When was it attested, and by whom? Note the similarities of 2: 3 with 1:1.
6. Does it feel like we have stopped paying "attention to what we have heard"? How can we pay better attention?

**Questions borrowed and adapted from Hebrews: How Jesus speaks into everything by John D. Barry and Hebrews for you by Michael J. Kruger.*

FOR NON-BELIEVERS OR NEW BELIEVERS

If you want to know more about Jesus and Christianity, contact Pastor Jonathan (jonathans@fpcrome.org)

1. This passage asserts (verses 3-4) that God proclaimed our salvation through the Lord Jesus, that the apostles who first heard it can attest to it, and that God performed miracles and other powerful works to corroborate it. God went to great lengths to show both himself and the way to salvation! We are without excuse if we reject it. What else could he possibly do to convince you? What would keep you from trusting him and looking to him for salvation? There are grave consequences for rejecting Christ (verse 3). But what blessings would be yours if you believed?

2. Verse 2 refers to “transgression” and “disobedience.” The first term refers to overt sins, or what we call sins of commission. The second term probably involves the kinds of sins where we shut our ears to God’s commands; in other words, sins of omission. Both kinds are serious, and both require repentance. What sins of both commission and omission need to be confessed in your life today?

3. The writer of Hebrews uses nautical terms in this passage when speaking of those who (like a ship) may drift away. First off, consider whether you have ever really been anchored to Jesus. You may have heard about him or learned a thing or two from the Bible, but have you ever really put your trust in him? Is your ship truly anchored?

4. This same metaphor of a ship drifting is also helpful for true believers, whether young or mature. Though we can never lose our salvation(!), it is still possible for Christians to drift. It may be slow and imperceptible and unintentional, but we do often experience drifting. First, consider some of the reasons we as Christians might be drifting. Is it busyness? Is it trials and difficult circumstances? Is it because you have developed an apathetic or cozy familiarity with the truth? Have things just gotten lukewarm with you over the course of time? Second, consider the antidote to this. Verse 1 speaks of “paying careful attention” to what we have heard. How can you and I make sure to keep our eyes more focused on Jesus? In what ways can you more intentionally live according to the revelation of God’s word? Acknowledge the drift, and then ask God to draw you back to him.

Like Christina. But even more so...we need something to fix our gaze upon...we need a home to pull us forward...and according to Hebrews, that is Jesus Christ...like the home on the hill in the painting, Jesus is the pinnacle of God’s plan of redemption...so considering this painting and background, here these words afresh from Hebrews chapter 12, verses 1-2:

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and the sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who, for the joy that was set before him, endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

And so, church, let’s begin this journey in Hebrews together...which is not disconnected from our humanity and our struggles...for we to live in Christina’s world...a world of suffering, pain, and hardship...but we are in a relationship with the savior, Jesus, who has overcome the world...and because of His supremacy, calls us to fix our eyes on Him in order that we might persevere in faith. -Tremper Longman, EBC, 23-25

About the artwork

Andrew Wyeth is perhaps the most famous American artist of the 20th century. He, along with John Singer Sargent, are the only two American artists invited into the Academy of Fine Art in Paris, France. President Kennedy awarded Wyeth the presidential medal of freedom, the only visual artist to receive such an award. He was also awarded presidential medals from George H Bush and George W Bush.

His art is connected to his humanity. He was a man that experienced loss and grief in this broken and fallen world and often expressed his pain in visual form through art.

His most famous work, and the one that best expresses his struggle with pain and grief, is a painting called Christina's World (1948). Christina is a friend of Wyeth and had a disease that left her unable to walk. Instead of choosing a wheelchair, she preferred to crawl using her arms. The painting is a picture of her struggle...but it is also a picture of her hope...in the painting her hands are gripped to the ground portraying her daily suffering, yet her body is leaning towards the farmhouse, which was her home. Life was a struggle, but her gaze and hope were on her home, which kept her moving forward and not giving up.

The book of Hebrews has a very similar theme...the writer expresses the hope and gaze of home in the person and work of Jesus Christ...the struggle to give up or turn back was very real for the audience...most scholars believe the original audience was Jewish Christians who were facing persecution...it would have been a struggle for them to keep moving forward in the profession of Jesus Christ because with that profession came pain and hardship.

ADDITIONAL NOTES



What is Pulpit Driven Discipleship?

Discipleship from the pulpit to communities therein pressed into the head, heart and hands of image bearers of God every day.

Pulpit Driven Discipleship is the name of a process of discipleship. Discipleship begins on Sunday with the sermon faithfully preached by our pastors then the message of sermon is digested and pressed into the heart throughout the week through prayer reflection and discussion in the home or in smaller discussion groups. It is in this context that life transformation and growth occur.

The pastoral leadership team and the Adult Discipleship Ministry Team are excited to walk together through the Book of Hebrews. Please prayerfully consider incorporating PDD as your primary means of discipleship. We believe that PDD is appropriate for individuals, couples, families, and groups of all kinds. This great resource can be found in the bulletin on Sunday, and will be available on-line and via email each week.

Director of Adult Discipleship Rob Davis welcomes discussion, questions, and comments of all kinds. Rob Davis 706-252-5216, RobD@fpcrome.org

PULPIT DRIVEN DISCIPLESHIP



Andrew Wyeth, Christina's World, 1948 ;

Perseverance by Promise ***A Study of the Sermon to the Hebrews***

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