

Are You Letting Things Slip?
Hebrews 2:1-4

Introduction:

1. **IE:** The *Titanic* Was The Largest & Most Luxurious Ship Built Of Its Time When It Set Out On Its Maiden Voyage On April 10, 1912. *Titanic* Was 882 Feet Long & Stood 92 Feet High & Weighed 46,328 Tons & Could Hold Over 3,500 Passengers & Crew! “The Ship Was Unsurpassed In Its Luxury & Opulence. The Ship Offered An Onboard Swimming Pool, Gymnasium, Library & Squash Court. First Class Common Rooms Were Ornately Decorated With Elaborate Wood Paneling, Expensive Furniture, And Other Elegant Decorations. The Crown Jewel Of The Ships Interior Was Its Grand Staircase – Decorated With Oak Paneling & Topped By An Ornate Wrought-Iron & Glass Dome Which Brought In Natural Light. *Titanic* Was Thought To Be ‘Practically Unsinkable!’” (Wikipedia)
 - But, We All Know What Happened To The “Unsinkable” *Titanic!*
 - On Her Maiden Voyage, She Was To Sail To New York City – But She Never Made It There! The “Unsinkable” *Titanic* Struck An Iceberg & Sunk To The Bottom Of The Ocean, Leaving Over 1,500 People In A Watery Grave!
 - All The Time, Money, Energy, & Publicity Spent On The *Titanic* Was A Waste, Because It Never Made It To Its Ultimate Destination!
2. As We Return To Our Study In The Book Of Hebrews, We Come To An Important Verse – A Warning – That Your Christian Walk & Life Not End Up Like The *Titanic!*
 - 2:1 - “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!”
 - How Much Time & Energy Have You Spent In Developing & Growing In Your Walk As A Christian?
 - Most Of You Have Spent Many Hours & A Lot Of Energy Going To Church Services, Attending Prayer Meetings, Witnessing To Others, Serving In Various Ways!
 - Most Of You Have Heard Thousands Of Sermons, Gone To Sunday School Since You Were A Child, Memorized Hundreds Of Verses, Read The Bible Over & Over Again, And Have Grown In Your Knowledge & Understanding Of What It Means To Be A Christian!
 - This Verse Is Addressed To You – Experienced Christians!
 - Do Not Let Your Life As A Christian End Up Like The *Titanic!*
 - 2:1 - “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!”
3. What Does It Mean To: “Give The More Earnest Heed”?
 - It Means: To Bring A Ship To Its Destination – Its Dock, Safe & Secure!
 - This Is What ***Didn’t*** Happen To The *Titanic!*
 - This Is What ***Should*** Happen To You!
 - It Means: To Bring What You Know About Christ To Its Intended Destination – Your Heart!
4. Why Should You “Give The More Earnest Heed”?
 - The Word “Therefore” Points Back To The Previous Chapter, Which Details For Us The Superiority & Greatness Of The Son Of God!
 - It Reminds You That God Has Spoken Through His Son!
 - 1:2 - “God . . . Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son!”
 - And This Is Why You Must “Give The More Earnest Heed!”
 - It Reminds You That God Has Set Up His Son As The King – Infinitely Greater Than The Angels In Heaven!
 - 1:13 - “Sit on my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool?”
 - And This Is Why You Must “Give The More Earnest Heed!”
 - What You Have Heard About Jesus Christ These Last Two Weeks!
 - What You Have Heard About Jesus Christ In Your Life!
 - These Are The “Things Which We Have Heard!”
 - These Are The Things To Which We Are To “Give The More Earnest Heed”!
 - If You Have Heard Much About Christ, You Are Responsible For Much!
 - Luke 12:48 - “For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required!”
(Jesus)
5. What Happens If You Don’t “Give The More Earnest Heed To The Things Which [You] Have Heard”?

- “Lest At Any Time We Should Let Them Slip!”
 - “Slip” - “To Slip Away” Is The Opposite Of Giving “Earnest Heed” To Something!”
 - Both Terms Are Nautical Terms!
 - The First – “Earnest Heed” – Is To Bring A Ship To Its Intended Destination!
 - The Second – “Slip” – Is To Let A Ship Pass By Or Miss Its Destination & Into Dangerous Waters Or Rocks!
- This **Is** What Happened To The Titanic!
- This **Is Not** What Should Happen To You!
- 6. My Fear For Us As A Church – And For You As A Christian – Is That We Are Letting Them Slip!
 - We Are Letting “The Things Which We Have Heard” Slip Away!
 - Sometimes They Slip Away Because We Aren’t Paying Attention To Them!
 - Everything You Have Heard & Read Becomes Dry & Wearisome, So You Ignore Them!
 - You Start To Think: “I’ve Heard All This Before” Or “I Know All This Already” Or “I Want Something Different & Something Fresh!”
 - And When You Start To Hear The Same Things Over & Over Again, You Tune Them Out!
 - You Are Letting Them Slip!
 - Sometimes They Slip Away Because We Are Neglecting Them!
 - How Important Is The Lord To You?
 - You Might Say, “He Is Very Important – Even All-Important To Me!”
 - But How Important Is His Word To You?
 - How You Value His Word Reveals How You Value Him! If You Don’t Value His Word – And, As A Result, Don’t Read & Study His Word – You Don’t Value Him!
 - How Important Is Prayer To You?
 - How You Value Prayer Reveals How You Value Him! If You Don’t Value Prayer – And, As A Result, Don’t Pray – You Don’t Value Him!
 - How Important Is Worship To You?
 - How You Value The Worship Services Of Your Church Reveals How You Value Him! If You Don’t Value Worship – And, As A Result, Don’t Avail Yourself Of All The Opportunities God Has Given You To Worship Him Here – You Don’t Value Him!
 - But The Lord Is Not As Important To You As You Say!
 - Because You Neglect His Word, Prayer & His Church!
 - Sometimes They Slip Away Because We Forget About Them!
 - But This Again Just Shows What Really Your Focus Is All About!
 - Just As You Can Make Time For What Is Important To You, No Matter How Busy You Are, You Can Also Usually Remember What Is Important To You!
 - Have You Ever Found Yourself Half-Way Through Your Day & Thought: “I Forgot To Read My Bible & Pray This Morning!”
 - Yet, Have You Ever Forgot To Eat Your Breakfast?
- 7. Do Not Let The Things You Have Heard As A Christian Slip Away!
 - Instead, “Give The More Earnest Heed” To Them!
 - There Is Another Short Phrase In 2:1 That I Want You To Notice:
 - “We Ought To!”
 - This Means: It Is **Necessary** To “Give The More Earnest Heed!”
 - It Is Not A Suggestion – It Is Not An Opinion – It Is A Requirement – It Is Critically Necessary For You To Do This If You Are A Christian!
 - In 2:2-4, We Find A Few More Reasons **Why** It Is Necessary To “Give The More Earnest Heed To The Things Which We Have Heard!”
 - And In The Rest Of The Time We Have Together, I Want To Briefly Look At These Reasons:
- 1. **The Greatness Of God’s Statutes!**
 - 2:2 - “For if the word spoken by angels was steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompence of reward!”
 - God Often Spoke To Man By Angels!
 - In Fact, God’s Greatest Words Where Given By Angels – Parts Of The Old Testament Law! (See Genesis 33:2; Acts 7:53; Galatians 3:19)

- But Even Though God Gave His Law Through Angels, It Was Still His Word, And God Expected His People To Obey It!
 - Even Though God Gave His Law Through Angels, If His Word Was Not Obeyed, They Would Be Punished!
 - Whether They Deliberately Did What They Were Told Not To Do! (Sins Of Commission)
 - Or Whether They Ignorantly Did Not Do What They Were Told To Do! (Sins Of Omission)
- Psalm 19:8 - “The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes!”
 - One Of These Statutes Is To “Give The More Earnest Heed To The Things Which [You] Have Heard!”
 - It Is A Matter Of Simple Obedience Or Disobedience! Are You Going To Obey The Lord? Are You Going To Listen To Him?

2. ***The Greatness Of God’s Salvation!***

- 2:3 - “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!”
- God Has Provided Salvation & Deliverance To Man Through His Son!
 - And This Can Be Properly Described As A “**Great** Salvation!”
 - It Is **Great** Because It Came From The Lord!
 - It Is **Great** Because It Has Been Confirmed By His Disciples!
- But Just How **Great** Is This Salvation To You?
 - If It Was Great To You, You Would Value It More Than Anything Else In This World!
- Just How **Great** Is This Salvation To You?
 - If You **Neglect** It So Easily & Frequently!
 - To “Neglect” Here Means To Have Little Care For It! To Treat It Carelessly & Half-Heartedly!
- The Question Is This:
 - “How Shall [You] Escape, If [You] Neglect So Great Salvation?”
 - Escape What? The Punishment & Judgment Mentioned In Verse 2 - “Just Recompense Of Reward!”
 - Not A “Good” Reward Here – It Is What You Deserve For Neglecting God’s “Great Salvation!”
 - **IE:** What Happens If You Neglect Your House Or Your Car Or Your Spouse Or Your Family? What Makes You Think That Everything Will Be OK If You Neglect God’s “Great Salvation!”
 - If You Neglect Anything, Neglect Those Things That Are In This World! But Do Not Neglect God’s “Great Salvation!”

3. ***The Greatness Of God’s Spirit!***

- 2:4 - “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?”
- God Has Provided Assurance To Man Through His Spirit!
 - God Has Not Left His People To Go Through This Life Alone!
 - Jesus Said In John 14:26 - “But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you!”
- When You Stop Neglecting Your “Great Salvation” & Stop Letting The “Things Which [You] Have Heard” Slip Away, The Spirit Of God Will Perform His Mighty Work In Your Heart!

Conclusion:

1. The *Titanic* Never Made It To Its Destination In New York City Because It Sunk To The Bottom Of The Ocean – There Were Some Unforeseen Flaws In The Ship!
 - But There Are No Flaws In God’s “Great Salvation” Which He Has Offered To You!
 - Rather, The Flaws Lie With Us!
2. When We Do Not Pay Attention To Or Neglect Or Even Ignore “The Things Which We Have Heard”:
 - It Is Not The Fault Of The Message!
 - It Is The Fault Of The Hearer! It Is Your Fault! It Is My Fault!

3. Do Not Let What You Have Heard Today Slip Away!
 - Do Not Neglect Your Great Salvation!
 - Rather, “Give [It] The More Earnest Heed!”

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