

## Hebrews 2:1-9 – Be Careful Little Ears What You Hear – Lesson Summary

One of my favorite times of day is praying with my kids before bed. Our littlest tries her hardest to stay focused but is often distracted by something around her. The other night she kept asking questions about what animals were the book next to her. After the 10<sup>th</sup> time of answering her and telling her to be quiet, my son and I just burst into laughter. Despite her best attempts to pay attention, the world around her had too much to offer. If we're honest, we are just as easily distracted as she was. We are bombarded by 5,000 ads a day, countless hours of commercials, and distractions are everywhere. The author of Hebrews understood this reality and challenges his readers to avoid the temptations to be drawn away from the Gospel.

Hebrews 2 begins with a plea for us to “pay much closer attention that what we have heard, lest we drift away from it.” Having just finished professing the superiority of Christ over all things he immediately connects that thought to a warning to not drift away from truth. God is superior. He is ultimate. He is to be on the throne of our life yet we are so easily drawn to other things. Drifting away from truth is often subtle. It begins with a glance over there, a song here, or a billboard on our way to work. Before we know it, our mind has been drawn away from the truths of Christ. Upon warning us to not drift the author reminds us that the message we have heard is true. It's been confirmed by our salvation, the Lord's declarations and our witness to His signs and wonders through the Holy Spirit. We have no excuse, the message is clear and true, but are we drifting away from it?

Drifting often happens in two ways. Individually, we can find ourselves drifting spiritually. In the midst of distractions, God's Word begins to lose its power and influence. The cultural messages around us drown out the still quiet voice of our Savior as the Holy Spirit is muted by temptation and sin. Drifting is not simply personal however. There's a theological drifting that is taking place among the “church” as well. God's Word has become culturally dated, less authoritative and only true when it serves one's best interests. If we do not hold fast to “what we have heard”, the very truths of God, we will be ruled by what speaks loudest in our lives.

The author quotes *Psalms 9* as he addresses the dominion we once had. He understands that our tendency to wonder began back in the garden. Rather than listen to the voice of God, we listened to the voice of Satan. Having been given dominion over all of creation we longed for more and ate the fruit. Now we face a creation that is broken and at times rules over us. Our physical and spiritual lives are under constant attack. Our broken minds, bodies, emotions, and nature itself are the reminder that our drifting from God has led to sin's control in our lives. The first Adam failed and everything broke. Praise God as the author of Hebrews reminds us that despite the first Adam's failure, the last Adam (Christ) does not.

Having quoted *Psalm 9* the author quickly transitions to the glory of Jesus Christ, the last Adam. He reminds us that while we still feel the affects of sin and brokenness around us, Jesus' death and resurrection have ushered in His Kingdom. He has been crowned with glory. Everything has been placed under His feet. So, why did the Hebrews need to be reminded to “pay much closer attention to what we have heard”? Why do we need to do the same? Because we still live in the tension of what many call the already but not yet. Christ has already conquered sin and death. His Kingdom is at hand but He has not yet returned. What we have heard should remind us of what's promised to come. There will be a day in which Christ's glory will be made known to all as He has makes all things new. This is our hope. So we listen more closely, and we rejoice in the One who is superior over all things, both now and forever.

### Discussion Questions:

- 1) What are some of the loudest “voices” in your life? How might our cultures messages drown out God's message? What do you spend the majority of your time doing and listening to?
- 2) How can the church or this youth group help keep you from drifting? What are some of the ways you could help someone who may be drifting?
- 3) How are you encouraged by the truth that through Christ, ALL things are being made new? How do you struggle in the “already but not yet” reality that we face as we wait for Christ's return?