

***“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,”*** [Hebrews 1-3]

The earlier revelation given by angels concerned the Mosaic Law. When people neglected the Law, there were serious consequences. You can read all about those consequences in the Old Testament. Now, the writer of Hebrews is saying that if there were consequences for neglecting a message given by angels, how much more if we neglect the Good News announced by Jesus. Therefore, he urges his readers to pay close attention to the Good News of Jesus, to not take it for granted. He uses a nautical illustration when he says, ***“lest we drift away from it”***. The sense is a ship drifting haphazardly past the harbor (of salvation). One theologian penned, *“The readers in their tendency to apathy are in danger of making shipwreck of theirs lives.”* When the harbor is there, people in their apathy pass by and that is never good.

And this apathy shows up in a variety of ways in our lives. When we neglect our personal devotions, worship, prayer, serving. Bible study, Sunday school, confirmation, giving, and the list can go on. When we grow in complacency, we find ourselves “drifting by the harbor”. But it is worse when the drifting is calm and smooth. It lulls a person into a false sense of security when all is going well, and therefore, calls from the harbor are ignored in order to maintain the seemingly smooth drifting one is doing.

***Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard...*** And what is it that you have heard? It is Jesus Christ crucified for the forgiveness of your sins and raised to give you the hope of eternal life. You CAN NOT drift to salvation on your own. You need the safe harbor that is Jesus. Let us not fall into apathy and thus make a shipwreck of our lives.

To God be all glory, now and forever, Amen.