

“Ships passing in the night” You have probably heard that old phrase, but does this describe you? Here is a definition that I found, “*The expression ships passing in the night may describe the relationship between two people who meet and have an intense relationship for a brief time and then part ways, never to meet again.*”

Are you and Jesus “ships passing in the night”? Well, consider this from Hebrews 2:1-3...

“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,”

The earlier revelation given by angels concerned the Mosaic Law. When people neglected the Law, there were serious consequences. 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. 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. Maybe you started following Jesus, but now have grown cold over the years. Maybe you have neglected your personal devotions, worship, prayer, serving. Bible study, giving, and the list can go on. And through this neglect, you have found yourself drifting aimlessly, like ships passing in the night, as it were. Maybe the drifting is because of something else in your life. Maybe you do not even know you are drifting. Whatever it is, please listen up. ***Therefore, we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard.***

O sinner, the message of salvation, the Gospel of Jesus Christ, is a safe harbor. In the sea of sin, there is no hope of finding a firm footing. In the sea of sin, the only sure thing is death. But Jesus Christ was crucified for the forgiveness of your sins and was raised to give you the hope of eternal life. O sinner, you CAN NOT

drift to salvation on your own, through your own good deeds. You need the safe harbor that is Jesus. Hear this Good News and let Jesus be your anchor, mooring you to the Rock of salvation. Pay close attention and hear this Good News of eternal life FOR YOU.

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