Jesus: God's Final Word

What's the Big Idea?

Since God has spoken to us in his Son, we should pay much closer attention to what we have heard so that we don't drift away from it.

What's the Problem?

We fail to appreciate how incredible it is that God has spoken to us in his Son. We neglect that word and drift away from it.

What's our Response?

Since God has spoken to us in his Son, we should pay much closer attention to his word and not neglect his great salvation.

Memorize

God, after he spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom also he made the world.

Hebrews 1:1-2 (NASB)

What Do I Need to Know About the Passage?

This passage proclaims that God has spoken to us supremely and finally in his Son and that the revelation we have in him is better than the revelation that came to the ancient Israelites via angels. Therefore we need to pay much closer attention to what we have heard from him so that we don't drift away.

God Has Spoken in His Son-Hebrews 1:1-4

Even though God had spoken through the prophets over the centuries, he chose to speak definitively through his Son, Jesus Christ. These verses describe who he is: the heir of all things, the radiance of God's glory, the exact representation of his nature, the one who upholds all things by his powerful word, the one who sits at God's right hand after having made purification for our sins. Lead your group in worshiping our Lord Jesus Christ for who he is and for speaking to us.

Jesus is Better than Angels-Hebrews 1:5-14

The author in these verses unpacks the things he said about Jesus in verses 1-4 and supports them from the Old Testament. Verses 5-9 show how Jesus is the heir of all things (verse 2). Verse 10 shows how Jesus is the agent of creation (verse 2). Verses 11-12 show how Jesus is the exact representation of God's nature and upholds all things by his powerful word (verse 3). Verse 13 shows how Jesus sits in glory at the Father's right hand (verse 3).

Throughout this section the author emphasizes that Jesus is better than the angels. He's also better than anyone or anything this world has to offer. Lead your group in appreciating this and considering how he's better than anyone or anything that would vie for our affection and attention.

Application: Pay Much Closer Attention-Hebrews 2:1-4

Since God has spoken in his Son and since his Son is better than angels, we should pay much closer attention to what we've heard from him. We should avoid the danger of drifting away from what we've heard or neglecting it. Help your group consider the ways they neglect and drift away from God's word. Lead them in considering what they can do to pay closer attention to God's word in Christ.

What Are the Questions?

Launch

Who has your ear? Who are the people that you really listen to? Why? Are there people you wish you had listened to but didn't?

Explore

Read Hebrews 1:1-4

1. What is the main activity of God in verses 1-2?
2. What do we learn about God's Son in verses 2-4?
3. What does the Son's word accomplish in verse 2-3?
4. What is the significance of the fact that Christ sat down? (see 10:11)
5. Summarize what we learn about the relationship of God and the Son. How does the logic of verse 4 clarify the point?

Read Hebrews 1:5-14

6. What is an angel? How are they related to God's former revelation? (See 2:2, Also Gal. 3:19, Acts 7:38)
7. Why is the writer contrasting the Son of God and angels?
8. What contrast do you see between the Son of God and angels?

Read Hebrews 2:1-4

9. What from chapter 1 provides a basis for us to pay much closer attention to what we have heard from God through Jesus?
10. How does paying close attention to God's word in Christ keep us from drifting away from that word?
11. What warning does the author give in verses 2-4 about drifting away from God's word in Christ?

Apply

12. What difference does it make in our daily lives that God has spoken in his Son?
13. Which truth about Jesus from Hebrews 1:2-4 means the most to you? Why?
14. Jesus is better than angels, but he's also better than anyone and anything else in our lives. What person or thing do you need to remind yourself that Jesus is better than?
15. In what ways do you see yourself neglecting God's word spoken in his Son?
16. What steps can you take with God's help to pay closer attention to the word of his Son?

What Are the Answers?

1. He spoke to us in his Son.
2. God created the world through him and appointed him heir of all things. He's the radiance of God's glory, is the exact representation of his nature, and holds all things together by his powerful word. He made purification for our sins and has sat down at God's right hand. He's much better than the angels because he has a more excellent name than they.
3. Jesus is the Word through which God created the world and his powerful word continues to bear up the world's existence.
4. Those who stand indicate by their perpetual work that their ministry is ineffectual, incomplete, and provisional. Jesus sat down because his revelation and salvation were finalized once and for all.
5. The Son is God. The name he inherited from God is the name of God. To the degree that the name of God (Yahweh) is greater than the name of some angel (Michael, Garbiel), so the being of the Son is greater than the being of the angels. The degree is infinite, as much as the creator is greater than the created. I.e. Jesus is God.
6. The angels were the vehicle of revelation for the invisible God. The visual and auditory fireworks of Old Testament theophanies were accomplished by angels. It was through angels that God communicated to the prophets.
7. Previously God delivered his messages through angels to the prophets to the people. Jesus is a far greater messenger, implying a far greater message.
8. The Son of God has a unique relationship with God the Father in which he is the eternal, righteous King. The angels worship him and are his servants. He created heaven and earth. The Son is eternal and unchanging. The Son of God has a unique position at the Father's right hand, where he sits until the Father makes his enemies a footstool for his feet. Angels don't have this position; they're spirits who serve God's people.

9. The God of the universe, made known through his Son, has spoken to us. We will never have the privilege of hearing from a greater person in our lives, so that in itself should move us to pay close attention to what he says to us.
10. Paying close attention to something guards us against neglecting it. If we're not neglecting God's word in Christ, we're unlikely to drift from it.
11. Since there was a serious penalty for disobeying the Old Testament law, there's an even more serious penalty for disobeying Jesus' word.
12. Allow the group to discuss.
13. Allow the group to discuss.
14. Allow the group to discuss.
15. Allow the group to discuss.
16. Allow the group to discuss.