

**Hebrews**  
**Chapter 2:1-10**  
**“Superior Love”**

**\*All scripture references are from the NASU unless otherwise noted\***

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The continuing theme of **Hebrews ...** is the superiority of Jesus Christ.

- 1.** Superiority over the angels and all other messengers
- 2.** Superiority over the Law ...
- 3.** ... over the might of man ...
- 4.** And over all forms of religion

He reigns superior to all things ...

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**Verse 1:**

**Q. : “For this reason”? For what reason Paul?** – Two keys that we looked at briefly last week ... both related to the message of Christ’s superiority over the angels:

- 1.** **John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.**
- 2.** And with that, remembering that the word “angel” simply means messenger [aggelos (ang'-el-os)].

It’s comparison and contrast! We receive messages all day long. Information ... suggestions, complaints, compliments and ideas ... it’s continual.

And some of those messages come to us supernaturally ... others come by naturally gifted messengers.

So, on one hand you have the Written, and yet, Living Word of God and on the other hand you have ... every other form and source of communication ... every other messenger.

And that’s the “**reason**” **verse 1**’s referring to ... because only the Word of God can be eternally trusted.

So, what the passage is telling us is that we need to “**pay much closer attention to**” the sure and certain Word of God.

The phrase in the Greek is perissoteros prosecho (per-is-sot-er'-oce pros-ekh'-o) and although it sounds a little awkward in the English, the most literal translation is ... to more superabundantly adhere to.

“Because we’re bombarded with messages and information all day long ... much of it coming from seemingly reliable sources ... we must more superabundantly adhere to the Written, Living and Unchanging Word of God.”

**Q. And if we don’t?** – The warning is true ... we will drift! Pararrhueso (par-ar-hroo-eh'-o) in the Greek ... meaning to flow by or carelessly pass ... referring, of course, to the truth. We will flow by or carelessly pass, the truth if we fail to give more earnest heed to the Word of God than to all other messages and messengers.

*In Southern California there’s a Marine Corp installation called Miramar and when I was still active duty and living near there, we went camping on a beach just south of that for a week. It was great ... four families (three of them strong believers). We played in the surf all day and sang praise around the campfire half the night ... a wonderful time.*

*But one day, a friend and I were out on boogie boards. It was probably our 10<sup>th</sup> trip out of the afternoon and we were getting tired so after we’d paddled out several hundred yards, we decided to take a break. So, we each flipped over and lay back on our boards ... just looking up at the sky and soaking in the sunshine. Literally, we were talking about the wonder of His creation as we looked and enjoyed it ... just giving praise to Him.*

*But, after, what seemed like just a few minutes, we were refreshed, and flipped back over ready for another fun ride in to the beach, but when we did ... no beach ... no shore anywhere in sight. Man ... that will put you in a quick panic!*

*Well, once we got our panic under control... we evaluated the situation. We looked at the position of the sun and tried to determine the direction of the waves ... taking into consideration, the direction of the wind ... and ultimately we gave it our best guess and started paddling.*

*Praise God we guessed correctly and it probably wasn’t five minutes before we could see land on the horizon, but as we got closer and closer we realized that we didn’t recognize any portion of the land we were approaching.*

*To make a long story shorter ... when we finally made it to shore ... we crawled up on the beach ... inside a restricted Marine Corp training site and walked the three or so miles back to our campsite ... all the way talking about the lesson God had just taught us.*

Pastor Skip Heitzig points to the passage in **Acts 16** where the Philippian jailor asks “...

what must I do to be saved?" and Paul answers "... Believe in the Lord Jesus ..." to which, Skip then asks ... "Then what must you do to be lost?"

**Q. The answer?** – Absolutely nothing! Lost happens with no effort at all. All you have to do is drift a while and you'll wake up thoroughly lost.

As believers, we avoid the danger of drifting by anchoring ourselves to the Word of God.

Not to other believers ... although that's good and important as well.

Not to a church ... although neither can we forsake the fellowship.

Not even to prayer or service or surrender to the Holy Spirit.

No ... we must anchor ourselves to His Word. That's how we prevent drifting.

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**Verses 2-4:** Every Biblical message recorded as being delivered by angels has come to pass just as it was spoken.

"Abraham and Sarah ... you're going to have a child in your old age." **Genesis 18**

"Sodom and Gomorrah ... judgment is at hand" **Genesis 18-19**

"Mary, you will conceive God's Son." **Luke 1:26-38**

So, it's just as **verse 2** says "... the word spoken through angels proved unalterable, and every transgression and disobedience received a just penalty".

**Q. And if every message delivered by angels has come to pass, how much more reliable is the very Word of God?**

**Q. And how will we escape if we neglect the salvation of Jesus Christ?** -- We can't go back to the Law ... because under the Law, "... every transgression and disobedience receive[s] a just penalty".

The Word was spoken by the Lord ... testified to by human witnesses ... and their testimony was confirmed by the miraculous workings of God. And that Word tells us ...

**Acts 4:12 ... there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved."**

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**Verses 5-8:**

**Genesis 1:28** God blessed [Adam & Eve] and ... said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth." **29** Then God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the surface of all the earth, and every tree which has fruit yielding seed; it shall be food for you; **30** ... and it was so.

That was God's original and perfect plan ... but man blew it! Man forfeited his dominion over creation. Sold it to Satan for the price of sin.

Listen to ...

**Romans 8:20 ... the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope 21 that the creation itself will ... be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God.**

If you could travel at the speed of light (186,000 miles per second) and you set a course across this little constellation of stars and planets we call the Milky Way Galaxy ... it would take you 100,000 years. Because it's six trillion miles from one side of this Galaxy to the other.

But ... the Milky Way Galaxy is only one of an estimated 100 trillion galaxies just like it in our universe. One hundred trillion galaxies like ours ... indeed ...

**Hebrews 2:6 ... "WHAT IS MAN, THAT YOU REMEMBER HIM? OR THE SON OF MAN, THAT YOU ARE CONCERNED ABOUT HIM?"**

But here's the other thing ... the Milky Way Galaxy contains more than 100 trillion stars and it's currently traveling through space at 200,000 miles per hour.

*When I was a sophomore in high school one of the coaches decided I should throw the shot-put. Now the shot-put, if you're not familiar with it ... is a 12-pound ball of steel that you throw straight out by extending your arm. The strength to toss doesn't come from your arm ... it comes from your legs and your torso and your shoulders. And it's hard!*

*A 30-foot toss is a pretty good one at that level. Now the pros will toss that thing 70 feet or more and they throw a 16-pound ball, but the force necessary to propel that thing that far is really incredible.*

But put that in perspective ... our galaxy contains more than 100 trillion stars and it's traveling at 200,000 miles per hour.

**Q. What kind of force was required to start this thing in motion at that speed?** – Backing up **one** verse from where the writer of Hebrews is quoting ... listen to **Psalm 8** ...

**3 When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, The moon and the stars, which You have ordained; 4 What is man that You take thought of him, And the son of man that You care for him?**

God literally flicked, not just the Milk Way, but all 100 trillion galaxies into motion with

His finger and they're still cruising at 200,000 miles per hour. Now that's thrust!

**Q. What is man, that a God that big and that powerful is mindful of Him?** -- We should all join David in amazement at this God of ours.

We're not going to do an in-depth study of angels here in **Hebrews**, but it is an important topic, so I do have a couple of tidbits for you:

**1.** As human beings, we're presently a little lower than the angels on the rank scale (**1st Peter 1:12**). And when God came to this earth as a man, even He took on that inferior role.

**2.** But ... **1st Corinthians 6:3** tells us that one day ... **we will judge angels ...** a passage, as you might imagine ... that gets debated, but looking to some of the **related verses**, I think, is clarifying ...

**2nd Peter 2:4 ... God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to pits of darkness, reserved for judgment**

That's speaking, of course, of fallen angels ... the angels who rebelled with Satan against the authority of God. The other passage is **Jude 6** ...

**And angels who did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode, He has kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day**

So what Paul seems to be saying in **1st Corinthians 6:3** is not that we will judge God's angels for the job they did or didn't do as ministers on our behalf ... but that we will, in some form or fashion, be involved in the judgment of the fallen angels.

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**Verses 9-10:** He suffered, and He died on your behalf ... on my behalf. Even though man forfeited his dominion through sin ... Jesus did not.

So, even though we no longer see all things subjected to man as it was in creation ... we can trust that all things are still under the control of our God and Savior.

**Philippians 2:8 Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. 9 For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name**

Jesus came as a man ... like us ... and as such, He was lower than the angels.

He suffered and died.

And because He suffered and died, He's now crowned with glory and honor ... a reward of obedience.

And because He's crowned as King, He has the authority to exercise His will of grace in calling His death a just penalty for our sin.

And finally ... God is the God of all ... so it was fitting for Him to subject Himself to such sufferings for our sake.

What an amazing statement ... it was "**fitting**" for Jesus to humiliated, tortured and crucified for us!

**Q. Really ... what's "fitting" about that?** -- It's like God giving us the benefit of doubt ... which, in and of itself, requires an enormous load of grace and mercy because God does not doubt ... He knows.

Never-the-less, in His grace and mercy we get the benefit of doubt. Meaning ... we weren't there when Adam sinned. We really had nothing to do with it. But if we're honest, most of us would admit that we wouldn't have lasted even as long as Adam and Eve did.

But it was different for the angels. **Revelation 12:4** tells us that 1/3 of the angels of Heaven followed Satan in his rebellion against God and each and every one of them did so consciously and willingly. They were there and they knew what they were doing.

See if you look at the account of the fall of man as Paul recorded it in **Romans chapter 5** ... he talks about the fact that it was Adam and Eve who sinned and that by that sin, they opened the door to sin ... they forfeited their dominion over this world ... gave control to Satan and in so doing, they brought the curse of temptation into our lives.

**Romans 5:12 ... through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned**

Now it gets a little philosophical ... but profound. See ... we often curse Adam for imparting to us a sin nature. For genetically giving to us the desire for sinful things.

But I want you to consider for a moment ... Adam sinned ... yes ... but it wasn't Adam's plan to give a sin nature to every man, woman and child who would come after him ... that was God's plan.

**Q. But why would He do that?** – To leave us the benefit of doubt.

**Q. Do you remember what Jesus cried from the cross in Luke 23:34?**

... **"Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing."** ...

If you're like me ... you've read that statement and thought ... "What a great Guy ... full of grace and mercy ... ask the Father to forgive those soldiers. So loving that He even wants all those mean people at the foot of the cross to be forgiven.", but it's much bigger than that.

Because Jesus didn't just ask the Father to forgive the soldiers and the people at the foot of the cross. He was also speaking of you and me.

And it's a very significant statement that's generally underappreciated. We too often, mentally stop reading after ... **"Father, forgive them"** and we miss the very important second half ... **"for they do not know what they are doing"**.

See ... Jesus is our defense attorney, and this is the plea He enters on our behalf. **"... they do not know what they are doing."**

It's a claim of temporary insanity and that means the difference between premeditated murder and manslaughter. We all agree that Jesus died for our sins. Or better stated ... we killed Jesus with our sins. But by these words Jesus makes our case for the lower charge of manslaughter.

To see the significance of that you have to recall the Old Testament picture that illustrates this New Testament truth. Way back in **Numbers 35** and **Joshua 21**, God established what He called Cities of Refuge.

Places where those guilty of manslaughter could take refuge, but those guilty of premeditated murder were not eligible. For them there was no safe place ... no call for forgiveness. But if it was manslaughter ... the guilty party could flee to one of these established places. But once they'd entered the city, they had to remain within its walls to have protection.

And under the New Covenant in Christ ... He is our city of refuge. And in Him we have protection inside the boundaries of His will.

The wisdom and the mercy and the grace and the love of this unbelievable plan are **"fitting"** to the nature of our God and have purchased forgiveness for us without violating God's own boundaries of right and wrong.

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**Conclusion:** As the writer shows us the superiority of Christ by comparing Him to all people ... all beings ... all things ... part of the goal of the argument is to convince us ... as we face the magnitude of Christ and as we consider His power and His wisdom ... part of the goal of the argument is to convince us to ... give up ... to surrender.

He wants us to throw our hands in the air and just give up the fight ... to see how outmanned we really are ... how impossible it would be to win and just give up our lives

to Him.

To surrender and let Him love us, save us and restore us!