

Hebrews 1:1-2:4

Town North Presbyterian Church – Rev. David J. Rogers

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I had lunch this week with a man who told me a story about his father. The man said his father was a strict disciplinarian. When he was young his father took him in the bathroom and showed him how he wanted him to arrange the shower curtain so that water wouldn't spray out onto the floor. His father said to him:

"I'm only going to tell you this ONCE – and I expect you to do it – or there will be consequences. So PAY CLOSE ATTENTION!"

The man said this was the way his father began all his instructions.

"I'm going to tell you this ONCE. So PAY CLOSE ATTENTION!"

And this man said you can be SURE that he learned to PAY CLOSE ATTENTION!

We see God giving these followers of Christ similar instruction here.

Look again at what these believers are told in **chapter 2 – verse 1:**

"Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it."

God tells these believers are told to "...PAY MUCH CLOSER ATTENTION to what they have heard..."

Notice that is a COMPARATIVE statement.

They were supposed to pay MUCH CLOSER ATTENTION. That means they were supposed to pay even CLOSER ATTENTION to what they were hearing NOW – than they did to what they heard BEFORE.

WHAT did they hear BEFORE?

The answer to that is all the way back in **chapter 1 – verse 1.**

“Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets...”

Notice, what they heard BEFORE was – they heard GOD SPEAK!

Whenever GOD SPEAKS we must PAY CLOSE ATTENTION.

These Jewish believers were being reminded of the ways GOD SPOKE to them – and their ancestors – in the PAST.

*“**LONG AGO**, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers BY THE PROPHETS...”*

As God’s people, they were supposed to PAY CLOSE ATTENTION to the PROPHETS.

The PROPHETS were God’s **MESSENGERS**. They SPOKE God’s WORD to the people.

And the same was true of the ANGELS. They were God’s MESSENGERS too! As a matter of fact, the word used for “angel” in the Greek language of the New Testament means “MESSENGER.” It refers to one who is SENT. An ANGEL was a MESSENGER.

And we see that here in **chapter 2 – verse 2.** Notice we are told:

*“For since the **message DECLARED BY ANGELS** proved to be reliable...”*

It was ANGELS who DECLARED the message. They were MESSENGERS.

They DECLARED the WORD of God – just like the PROPHETS.

ALL OF THIS is what these Jewish believers – and their ancestors had HEARD. They had HEARD the whole LAW of MOSES by the PROPHETS and by ANGELS.

And they were supposed to PAY CLOSE ATTENTION to it!

But notice they are being told they **MUST PAY MUCH CLOSER ATTENTION** to what they were HEARING NOW!

WHY?

They **MUST PAY MUCH CLOSER ATTENTION** – because there is a **BETTER MESSENGER!**

Look again at **chapter 1 – verses 1-2.**

“Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, ² but in these last days he has spoken to us by his SON...”

Notice LONG AGO – GOD SPOKE – by the PROPHETS.

But in these LAST DAYS – GOD SPOKE – by His SON!

The **PROPHETS** were GOOD MESSENGERS – and they should PAY ATTENTION.

And the **ANGELS** were GOOD MESSENGERS – and they should PAY ATTENTION.

But **God’s OWN SON** is a **BETTER MESSENGER!**

You cannot get a BETTER –MORE VALUABLE–MESSENGER than God’s OWN Son!

SURELY you must PAY EVEN MORE ATTENTION to God’s VERY OWN SON!

Illus: As a matter of fact, Jesus told a parable about this in **Mark’s Gospel (chapter 12).**

Jesus said:

“A man planted a vineyard and put a fence around it and dug a pit for the winepress and built a tower, and leased it to tenants and went into another country. ² When the season came, he sent a servant to the tenants to get from them some of the fruit of the vineyard. ³ And they took him and beat him and sent him away empty-handed. ⁴ Again he sent to them another servant, and they struck him on the head and treated him shamefully. ⁵ And he sent another, and

him they killed. **And so with many others:** some they beat, and some they killed.

He had still one other, a beloved son. Finally he sent him to them, saying, 'They will respect my SON.' ⁷ But those tenants said to one another, 'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him, and the inheritance will be ours.' ⁸ And they took him and killed him and threw him out of the vineyard. ⁹ What will the owner of the vineyard do? He will come and destroy the tenants and give the vineyard to others."

Notice the Father SENT His BELOVED SON. And what did the Father say?

"SURELY, they will respect my SON!"

This is what these believers were being told about Jesus Christ and His GOSPEL.

They are being told they must "...PAY MUCH CLOSER ATTENTION to what they have heard..." They were to PAY MUCH CLOSER ATTENTION to **JESUS CHRIST and His GOSPEL** – than they did to the **PROPHETS & ANGELS** who brought the **LAW of MOSES!**

These words are equally true for us as believers TODAY.

God is telling us **WE MUST PAY CLOSE ATTENTION** to what we have **HEARD FROM JESUS CHRIST in the GOSPEL.**

And our text tells us WHY this is so important.

So the point today is this:

Since God has NOW SPOKEN the good news of salvation **BY HIS SON,**

WE MUST PAY CLOSE ATTENTION TO IT.

God gives us GOOD REASONS WHY we must PAY CLOSE ATTENTION to this WORD of the GOSPEL through Christ. They are reasons that are intended to HELP us ENDURE and PERSEVERE by FAITH.

WHY must we PAY CLOSE ATTENTION to what we HEAR from Christ in the Gospel?

FIRST, because the MESSENGER is GREAT

SECOND, because the DANGER is GREAT

THIRD, because the SALVATION is GREAT

MP1: The MESSENGER is GREAT (1:1-13)

FIRST, we must PAY CLOSE ATTENTION because the MESSENGER is GREAT.

In other words, the MESSENGER of the GOSPEL – (Jesus Christ) – is GREAT!

We see this in **verses 1-4.**

“Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets,² but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.³ He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,⁴ having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.”

Notice we are told God did something in time and space that brought a great CHANGE in the way God SPOKE to human beings. That great CHANGE took place about 2000 years ago when Jesus Christ was born.

Notice this great CHANGE is described by the words “LONG AGO” and “LAST DAYS.”

We are told that “LONG AGO” – God SPOKE to the people of Israel by the PROPHETS.

But in these “LAST DAYS” – God SPOKE by His SON.

Then we are told exactly WHO this SON is – and how GREAT He is!

Notice we are told He was appointed by God to be the HEIR OF ALL THINGS!

What does that mean?

It means He is the SON of GOD; OWNER and RIGHTFUL HEIR of ALL THINGS!

The word “HEIR” means He rightly owns everything given to Him by the Father.

In this case, the Father is GOD Himself. GOD is the CREATOR and OWNER of ALL things. And therefore Christ – the SON of God – is RIGHTFUL OWNER of all things.

In this case Jesus Christ is not only the ETERNAL SON of God – but He is the SON who took on a human nature. He the GOD-MAN – both GOD and MAN – two natures in ONE PERSON.

So He is the rightful SON of MAN – and the SON of MAN.

He is the FIRSTBORN SON of mankind since the ORIGINAL MAN ADAM was created. He is the FIRSTBORN SON who is HIGHER than all the other SONS. Because of this He has a right to the inheritance. The FIRSTBORN SON was “*heir of ALL*.” He is PRINCE and LORD over all the other children of the family.

And that is what the writer of Hebrews is emphasizing here.

Jesus Christ is the SON and HEIR of GOD! And at the same time now – taking on a human nature – He is PRINCE and LORD over all His fellow human beings. HE is rightful HEIR to the INHERITANCE of the WHOLE WORLD – as the first man ADAM was supposed to be.

And He now SHARES that INHERITANCE with ALL who belong to Him!

That is why we read – in **Romans 4 (verse 13)** – that the PROMISE to Abraham and His OFFSPRING was that he would be “HEIR of the WORLD!”

Abraham’s OFFSPRING (according to the flesh) was JESUS CHRIST. Jesus Christ is HEIR OF ALL THINGS – and all who BELONG to Jesus Christ by FAITH are CO-HEIRS with Him because He SHARES His inheritance with them!

So the writer is telling us something AMAZING about Jesus Christ here.

He was appointed by GOD to be the HEIR OF ALL THINGS!

He is the SON of GOD. The OWNER and RIGHTFUL HEIR of ALL THINGS!

And notice we see the GREATNESS of Jesus Christ in the next statement as well.

He is the one “...through whom also he created the world...”

It was THROUGH this SON – Christ – that the WORLD was CREATED! This is telling us that He is CREATOR – and NO LESS than GOD than GOD the FATHER! These words SURELY put Christ in the GOD category – because there are ONLY TWO options for beings.

There is the CREATOR – and there is CREATION.

The CREATOR is NOT CREATED. Everything else IS CREATED.

So we are being told here that this SON – Jesus Christ – EXISTED BEFORE creation!

And this is simply nothing more than what Jesus Christ Himself told us

(John 8).

“Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.”

By that statement, Jesus Christ Himself was telling us He is in the CREATOR category. He is the ETERNAL SON of GOD – who CREATED all things.

But not only is Jesus Christ the SON the HEIR of ALL THINGS – the writer goes on with a list of things which are true of Jesus Christ – which show His GREATNESS.

In **verse 3** we are told:

“He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power.”

All of these descriptions are intended to tell us that Jesus Christ – the SON of GOD – is fully GOD. Jesus Christ is the “exact imprint” of God’s nature.

This is the only place this word is used in the New Testament, so it is difficult to say what it is exactly referring to.

SOME SAY it may refer to the image left by a **STAMP** or a **DIE** – which forms an exact IMAGE of something.

If you put INK on a stamp – and press the stamp on paper – it leaves and EXACT IMPRINT of the STAMP on the paper.

Or when the US MINT makes a metal coin they cast a DIE – which puts a STAMP on soft metal. That DIE produces an EXACT IMAGE of the DIE.

OTHERS SAY the word may refer an **ENGRAVING** – which Aaron and the priests were supposed to put on the front of their head turban (**Exodus 28**). God told them to ENGRAVE the LORD’s NAME: “*HOLY to the LORD*” (or “*TO the LORD*”) onto a plate of pure gold. Then they were to put that plate on the priest’s head.

This was GOD’S NAME – the very ESSENCE of God’s NAME and

CHARACTER – representing GOD’S GLORY to the people.

In either case it refers to the EXACT IMPRINT of GOD Himself – and His nature.

It means WHAT WE SEE and HEAR in the CHARACTER and NATURE of Jesus Christ is an EXACT IMPRINT of the very NATURE of GOD!

When you KNOW and HEAR Jesus Christ and His character – you KNOW and HEAR GOD Himself!

There is not time to go into all the images used here – but you get the idea. God is telling us the GREATNESS of His SON – Jesus Christ.

Notice it is **NOT ONLY** emphasized that **Jesus is GREAT.**

But notice (again) this is a COMPARATIVE statement. Notice we are told that **Jesus is GREATER!**

GREATER than WHOM?

Surely GREATER than the PROPHETS.

But we are also told He is GREATER than God’s other MESSENGERS:

ANGELS.

That’s what we are told in **verses 5-13.**

“For to which of the angels did God ever say,

“You are my Son,

today I have begotten you”?

Or again,

“I will be to him a father,

and he shall be to me a son”?

And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says,

“Let all God’s angels worship him.”

Of the angels he says,

*“He makes his angels winds,
and his ministers a flame of fire.”*

But of the Son he says,

*“Your throne, O God, is forever and ever,
the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom.
You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;
therefore God, your God, has anointed you
with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.”*

And,

*“You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning,
and the heavens are the work of your hands;
they will perish, but you remain;
they will all wear out like a garment,
like a robe you will roll them up,
like a garment they will be changed.
But you are the same,
and your years will have no end.”*

And to which of the angels has he ever said,

*“Sit at my right hand
until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet”?*

We see this throughout the **entire FIRST CHAPTER** of this letter – in **verses 1-13**.

We are told Jesus is **GREATER** than the **PROPHETS**.

And we are told Jesus is **GREATER** than **ANGELS**.

As I said earlier, the point of this chapter is that **JESUS IS BETTER**.

So God was telling these Jewish believers that they **MUST PAY CLOSER ATTENTION** to the GOSPEL THEY HAVE HEARD – **BECAUSE the MESSENGER is GREATER.**

Illus: The GREATNESS of the MESSENGER largely determines how SERIOUSLY you take the MESSAGE – and how RELIABLE you believe it is, doesn't it?

Many years ago we moved to southern Florida – and my 7-year-old son came into the house one day and told my wife he had seen a bald eagle. He was 7-years-old – and like many young boys that age – wasn't known for always telling the truth.

So my wife didn't believe it.

But sure enough – a short time later my wife was on a walk in our neighborhood – and saw a bald eagle!

If a Professional Ornithologist had told us there was a bald eagle in our neighborhood – we would have believed him. But we weren't so sure when the message came from our 7-year-old son!

The same is true with this MESSAGE of GOOD NEWS of FORGIVENESS of SIN – and an INHERITANCE in God's Kingdom to come. If the MESSENGER who brought this news to the world was any normal person – it would be hard to believe.

But the one who brought the GOOD NEWS of FORGIVENESS of SIN – and an INHERITANCE in God's Kingdom – is the SON OF GOD HIMSELF!

Jesus Christ is NOT simply "*any normal person.*"

He IS the SON OF GOD Himself!

That is WHY this GOOD NEWS is so AMAZING.

And it is WHY we MUST PAY CLOSE ATTENTION it!

We must PAY CLOSE ATTENTION to it – because of the GREATNESS of

the MESSENGER!

App: That is also why we can have such great ASSURANCE as believers in Jesus Christ.

We can have ASSURANCE that the things Jesus Christ tells us about SIN – and FORGIVENESS – and the COMING KINGDOM are absolutely TRUE. We can have great ASSURANCE – because the one who tells us these things is no other than the SON OF GOD!

This should give you great HELP and HOPE as a follower of Christ – when you are in need ENDURANCE.

Jesus promises (**John 5**):

“Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.”

And (**John 6**):

“...whoever comes to me I will never cast out. ³⁸ For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. ³⁹ And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. ⁴⁰ For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.”

When the SON OF GOD tells us these things – we MUST PAY CLOSE ATTENTION to them – because we KNOW they are TRUE. If anyone else told us these things – we would have reason to DOUBT or WONDER if they are true.

But the SON OF GOD has told us these things.

That is something you need to hold onto when you are in times of DOUBT and FEAR. Your CONFIDENCE and HOPE are NOT in yourself. Your CONFIDENCE and your HOPE are in JESUS CHRIST and what He has told

you.

So FIRST, we must PAY CLOSE ATTENTION because the MESSENGER is GREAT.

MP2: The DANGER is GREAT (2:1-4)

SECOND, we must PAY CLOSE ATTENTION because the DANGER is GREAT.

Notice this is what we are told in **verses 1-4 of chapter 2.**

“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, ⁴ while God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.”

Think about what GOD is telling these Jewish believers.

He is giving them a WARNING.

God is telling them to look back at the Law of Moses – and the people of God who received it – and consider what happened.

Notice he says in **verse 2:**

“For since the message declared by angels proved to be reliable, and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution...”

What does the writer mean by that? What was the message “declared by angels”?

He is referring to the Law of Moses. The Jews were in agreement that the

Law was given through the ministry of ANGELS.

We read in the book of Acts (**chapter 7**) that Stephen referred to this when he was preaching to the Jews in Jerusalem. Stephen said:

*“Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered, ⁵³ **you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it.**”*

God gave the Law through the ministry of ANGELS.

And so notice what the writer says next about the Law of Moses in **verse 2**:

“...[it] proved to be reliable, and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution...”

That Law of Moses that God gave through ANGELS – proved to be RELIABLE – and EVERY TRANSGRESSION received just RETRIBUTION.

In other words, look at the history of Israel. God gave WARNINGS and THREATS of TEMPORAL JUDGMENTS to the people of Israel if they DISOBEYED that LAW.

In other words, PEOPLE would be PHYSICALLY EXILED from the land or KILLED!

That MESSAGE from ANGELS – proved to be RELIABLE!

It SURELY happened!

We read that tens of THOUSANDS of Jews were KILLED by GOD in the Old Testament. And they were CAST OUT of the land by God – and sent into EXILE.

They RECEIVED God’s WARNINGS – and those who REJECTED God’s WARNINGS received “JUST (or FAIR) RETRIBUTION (or VENGEANCE)” from God!

So notice the point being made in **verse 3**:

“...**how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation?**”

In other words, **HOW SHALL WE ESCAPE God's VENGEANCE** – if we **NEGLECT this MESSAGE of the GOSPEL from His SON?**

If the **people of Israel REJECTED the MESSAGE from ANGELS** – **HOW SHALL WE POSSIBLY ESCAPE God's WRATH if we REJECT the MESSAGE from God's OWN SON?!**

Again, notice the **LEVEL of WARNING is HEIGHTENED** for this MESSAGE of the GOSPEL from God's OWN SON!

This is WHY the GOSPEL was preached with great **URGENCY** and **SINCERITY** by Jesus Christ and the Apostles. This is WHY the Apostle Paul has said he had such “...**GREAT SORROW** and **UNCEASING ANGUISH** in His heart...” – for His fellow Jews who REJECTED Jesus Christ and His GOSPEL!

God WARNS us that it is DANGEROUS to **REJECT the GOOD NEWS of Jesus Christ.**

It is REJECTING God's offer of **GRACE and ETERNAL LIFE** – and choosing God's **CURSE and ETERNAL DEATH** instead.

Illus: I saw a similar example of this a few years ago with a woman I knew from our congregation. This woman was dangerously sick with very poor oxygen levels (after COVID).

Her family begged her to go to the hospital – but she refused.

They finally took her to the Emergency Room and the nurses gave her oxygen and begged her to be admitted to the hospital to continue the oxygen until her levels returned.

She refused to stay at the hospital and forced her husband to take her home.

He took her home and she collapsed. They did CPR and called 911 – and she was revived – and was angry that they called 911.

The paramedics pleaded with her to let them take her to the hospital.

She refused to let the paramedics take her to the hospital.

They left – and she collapsed again and stopped breathing. The paramedics were never able to revive her and she died.

It was a picture of the terrible DANGER of REJECTING HELP.

In the GOSPEL – Jesus Christ OFFERS LIFE, RIGHTEOUSNESS and FORGIVENESS of SINS to all of us who are under God's WRATH and CURSE.

God makes His APPEAL to us THROUGH His Son Jesus.

And Jesus Christ sends His AMBASSADORS throughout the world – IMPLORING US on behalf of Christ:

“Be reconciled to God!”

App: So I am here today – as a servant of Jesus Christ – making the same APPEAL to you if you are here today and you are NOT a follower of Jesus Christ:

“God SENT this Jesus Christ to give FORGIVENESS of SINS – and LIFE, and an INHERITANCE in HIS KINGDOM – to ANYONE who will trust Him.”

YOU can have FORGIVENESS of SINS – and LIFE – and an INHERITANCE in His Kingdom TODAY!

Don't REJECT Him. This may be the last offer you hear from Him. You may die today.

It is important to PAY CLOSE ATTENTION to these words. NOTICE the question is asked: *“HOW will we ESCAPE if we NEGLECT such a great salvation?”*

“HOW WILL WE ESCAPE from GOD’s WRATH and CURSE?”

“HOW WILL WE ESCAPE from God’s judgment?”

HOW WILL **YOU** ESCAPE?

There are many people who think they WILL somehow ESCAPE the WRATH of God without Jesus Christ.

SOME people think they will ESCAPE – because they are basically “good people.”

SOME people think they will ESCAPE – because they can’t imagine

This is WHY we must PAY CLOSE ATTENTION to the GOOD NEWS of Jesus Christ – and BELIEVE IT.

So SECOND, we must PAY CLOSE ATTENTION because the DANGER is GREAT.

MP3: The SALVATION is GREAT (2:2-3)

SECOND, we must PAY CLOSE ATTENTION because the SALVATION is GREAT.

We see this again in **verses 1-3.**

It is simply the “FLIP SIDE” of the WARNING.

Look again at **verses 1-3.**

“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?”

Notice it is called a “GREAT” SALVATION.

The word SALVATION is simply another way to say the GOSPEL.

WHY is this SALVATION called "GREAT"?

WHY is the GOSPEL of GRACE in Jesus Christ called "GREAT"?

It is surely GREAT in many ways.

It was GREAT in terms of God's WHOLE PLAN to RESCUE fallen mankind!

God created the world GOOD. But SIN RUINED the GLORY of God in mankind and all creation. Adam and Eve – and the rest of mankind were RUINED and HOPELESSLY LOST.

There was NO WAY for human beings to save human nature from this CURSE of SIN and DEATH. BUT GOD – in His infinite MERCY and POWER – carried out a grand plan to RESCUE mankind – and the world from SIN and DARKNESS.

He came to Abraham with a promise to BLESS Abraham and the nations.

And thousands of years later God sent His SON into the world. As to His human nature a descendant of Abraham. But as to His divine nature – the SON of GOD.

GOD the SON took on human nature – as the LAST Adam to destroy SIN and DEATH.

It is truly a GREAT salvation – simply in it's GREAT SCOPE and PLAN!

But more importantly for us today this salvation is GREAT by what we are DELIVERED FROM – and what we are DELIVERED TO.

In the book of **Colossians (chapter 1)** we are told:

"He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins."

In this SALVATION we are DELIVERED FROM EVERYTHING EVIL.

This is truly a **GREAT** SALVATION when you compare it to other salvation.

God **SAVED** the people of Israel from slavery in Egypt in the Old Testament. He rescued them out of human slavery – and destroyed Pharaoh's army in an amazing way.

But that SALVATION was only from human slavery in this world. And it was only temporary. Eventually that generation died.

But SALVATION through Jesus Christ is GREATER!

Jesus Christ came to DELIVER His people from SIN – and DELIVER them from the WRATH to come FOREVER.

Illus: If as nurse or doctor SAVES someone's life – we say that person is a hero!

When **Oskar Schindler** SAVES over 1,000 Jews from death during the Holocaust we say he was a GREAT man!

Having people **SAVED** from imprisonment, dangerous disease, or DEATH is GREAT SALVATION.

So HOW MUCH GREATER is SALVATION from SIN and the WRATH to come?

App: As Christ's people we have truly received a GREAT SALVATION!!

It is a SALVATION which we **MUST PAY CLOSE ATTENTION TO.**

That means we must spend time HEARING IT – and THINKING ABOUT IT – like we are doing here in worship today.

Our **Westminster Larger Catechism question #160** asks:

What is required of those who HEAR Word preached?

In other words, there is something REQUIRED of you – whenever you come to worship to hear the Word of God preached. And for that matter – there is something REQUIRED WHENEVER you READ or HEAR God's Word of the Gospel.

WHAT is REQUIRED?

One thing required is to “***MEDITATE***” on it.

That means to THINK MORE DEEPLY about it. It means to GIVE CAREFUL THOUGHT to it.

It means to CHEW on it for a while – like a COW chews on its CUD. THINK about what it means – and let your mind run with it – thinking through all of its implications and meanings for your life.

Consider how GREAT this SALVATION IS that Jesus Christ has PURCHASED for you.

Conclusion:

And one place to do that is here at this table of our Lord Jesus Christ.

It is HERE that Jesus Christ calls you to take a few moments to MEDITATE on what you have just heard about this GREAT SALVATION He has accomplished for you.

You have time to MEDITATE on His CROSS – and what it meant when He said:

“It is FINISHED!”

Your DEBT of SIN has been completely PAID.

He has TRANSFERRED you OUT of the domain of darkness – and TRANSFERRED you INTO His own kingdom.

THINK about the GREATNESS of the MESSENGER – JESUS.

THINK about the GREATNESS of the DANGER without Him.

And THINK about the GREATNESS of the SALVATION He accomplished for you.

Let’s pray...