

Title: Our Great Salvation

Text: Hebrews 2:1-4

Date: October 4, 2026

Good morning. It is a joy and a delight to be worshipping with you this morning. If you take open your bibles to the book of Hebrews 2. Today from this passage we're going to discover some truth concerning our great salvation. And before we get started let me just explain why it's so vitally important for us to think about and consider our salvation that comes through Jesus Christ our Lord. It's basically because it's so easy to drift.

Just yesterday my son and I, Jude, we're celebrating his 10th birthday fishing. And in the late morning the sun or the wind started blowing. The sun was out as a beautiful day but the wind started blowing and so the boat just drifted very easily across the lake. And in a very similar way as it relates to us as Christians it's very easy to just drift with the tide. Drift with the winds of the culture or perhaps our circumstances. It's very easy to drift even into a state of familiarity, forgetfulness, even falsehood concerning our great salvation.

So, this morning we're going to be reminded. We're going to be reminded how to stay alert while we are enjoying this great salvation. So, if you're there Hebrews 2 I'm going to read the first four verses if you want to follow along.

"Therefore we must pay closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. For since the message declared by angels proved to be reliable, and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and was attested to us by those who heard, while God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will."

Well, this is God's word for us. We're thankful. Amen. Would you pray with me. Psalm 19:14, *"O God may the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, you are our Lord, our rock and our redeemer."* Help us as your people to have ears to hear and hearts to obey concerning our great salvation.

In Jesus name, amen.

Question, why is our salvation so great? Well basically this is the driving point of the sermon today. And this is essentially the driving point of the entire book of Hebrews. Our salvation is great because Jesus is great. The whole letter is establishing this fact that Jesus is greater. He's the greater prophet, he's the

greater priest, he's the greater king, and so these chapters are unpacking and unfolding and establishing this reality that Jesus is great. He is great. And so, as we follow this line of reasoning this morning, we're going to just focus on this truth considering together the greatness of Jesus.

It's kind of like if we were touring together the Grand Canyon. How many of you have been there? Grand Canyon? Okay so you know what, I've not been there but what I've been told, if we're standing at the edge of the Grand Canyon the expanse of this canyon is just amazing. And so, if I'm your tour guide, I'm going to be saying, oh look how the sun encapsulates the canyon here and look at how wide it is and look at how deep the canyon is. But from our standpoint all we're seeing is the canyon that's right in front of us. And so, there's a whole wealth of beauty and majesty that we can see and observe from that canyon. Well in the similar way this morning that's what we're doing. We're really just getting a taste, just a glimpse of the majesty of this great salvation that is provided for us through a great Savior.

I have three kind of key areas that I want to focus your attention on that help us to see the expanse, the depth, the width of Jesus. First of all, Jesus is great because he is the merciful and faithful high priest. If you would just look a little bit further down in chapter 2:14-18, 14-18.

"Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham. Therefore he has to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted."

So, our question is this: why is our salvation so great? It's so great because Jesus the Savior is great. And first and foremost, we see that he is great because he is the merciful and faithful high priest. The high priest we read in Leviticus 16. You see that annually the high priest was given the responsibility of going to the Holy of Holies, the temple or the tabernacle at times to offer sacrifice on behalf of the people. On behalf of the sins of the people. And so, this requirement was put upon the high priest to accomplish and fulfill this task. And he had to have the right garments to wear, he had to offer the right sacrifices, he had to offer the right sacrifice for his own sin, and then the sins of the people.

And so, in contrast to that high priest Hebrews is establishing the reality that Jesus is a better high priest. He's the perfect high priest. He's the best high priest. He is the merciful and compassionate faithful high priest. And so, our salvation is great because our great high priest has suffered death in order to appease the wrath of God upon our sinful rebellion against him. Jesus as the high priest has offered himself for the sins of the people.

So, how does this show mercy? How does this show the faithfulness of our great high priest? Well specifically we see there that Jesus helps us. Have you ever considered Jesus as a helper? Have you ever come to him and prayed to him for help? Well, we're told in Hebrews 4:14 & 15, *"Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin."* And so, our great high priest is our helper. And so, we can come to him when we are tempted.

Now you don't have to raise your hand for this one, but I would ask you how many of you faced temptation this week? Well, I know the answer to that, myself included. All of God's people face temptation. We are constantly bombarded by the enemy. We are constantly tempted to be led astray by the world, the flesh, and the devil. And so, Jesus as our high priest he sympathizes with our weaknesses. He was tempted just like we are, and we can come to him for help. Help in our weakness. Help when we are tempted. I'm reminded of the passage 1 Corinthians 10:13, *"There is no temptation that has overtaken you that is not common to man."* It's normal.

So, you think about the temptation that you faced this week, even this morning. You're getting the kids ready, and you're tempted to just scream out come on we have to go! Let's go! And so, when your household is under that temptation that's not uncommon. It's not uncommon. So, *"No temptation is overtaking you that is not common man. God is faithful, he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it."* Jesus is the merciful and faithful high priest. Jesus is great. Which makes our salvation great. And as those who belong to Christ, we have one that we can come to when we are tempted, and we can have help in time of need.

Secondly Jesus is great because he offered the sacrifice of his own perfect blood. Hebrews 9 if you want to turn over there with me. Hebrews 9 starting at verse 11 explains to us this sacrifice that Jesus offered. Hebrews 9:11 and following, *"But when Christ appeared as high priest."* What you're going to notice here this morning is the three key points that we're looking at concerning the greatness of Jesus. They're kind of welded together. They all are meshed and hooked together concerning Jesus as high priest but they're like a layer of an onion. You start peeling them back and they give you a different nuance of into the greatness of who Jesus is.

And so for example *"when Christ appeared," Hebrews 9:11, "as high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience*

from dead works to serve the living God." Jesus is great because as the merciful and faithful high priest he has made the final eternal payment for our salvation. Salvation is awesome! It's amazing! It's great because our great high priest, this text implies to us that he has done what we could not do for ourselves.

Let me give you an example. Last August I was diagnosed with colon cancer. And I soon realized through all the various testing and probing and CT scans and all the things that they do, I soon realized that if anything of benefit is going to happen to my body here and if this is going to be fixed it's going to require someone outside of myself to do it, okay. I couldn't reach in and fix it. I couldn't do it by my own merit, by my own work, and so the surgeon had to go and fix and take out the bad and put it back together. And by God's grace it's good. I'm clear. I'm free. You know I'm thankful for that. But the reality is I could not do for myself what I needed. And so too it is with our salvation.

That's why we need a great Savior. That's why we need a merciful and faithful high priest who offered the sacrifice of his own perfect blood. We could not meet the standard. We couldn't accomplish the perfection that God requires. We could not obey his law. We could not keep his commands. And so, by God's grace he has accomplished what we could not accomplish on our own. This also reminds us, church, that in as much as Jesus is a great Savior we are also great sinners. We're very good at rebelling against God. And that's why we need a Savior. And that Savior has come, and his name is Jesus. He is the merciful and faithful high priest who gave what we could not give. His perfect blood as the redemption for sinners. So, we see our merciful and faithful high priest. We see the sacrifice of his own perfect blood.

And thirdly Jesus is great because he is seated at the right hand of God. Hebrews 10 if you want to just turn right over to Hebrews 10 starting at verse 11. It tells us, *"And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a foot stool for his feet."* Our salvation is great because our great high priest, here's the key word, finished it. When he was on the cross, he cries out *"it is finished."* And so, when it tells us here that Jesus sat down it means that he has completed his service to the Father. It means that Jesus has the complete authority, and he has accomplished total victory for our salvation.

I wonder, could you imagine having to stand day after day, moment after moment performing the same exact task and never actually finishing the work. Some of you are shaking your heads I can see. It's like yeah that's my job, right. You work in a factory. Yeah, Honda's obliged to help you do that very thing, right. Or maybe you know for kids it's like I just cleaned my room. How did it get dirty already? It's just a continuing ongoing effort, right, that just never finishes. Or maybe it's your garden you know. I just plucked these weeds, where did they come from? I keep plucking and here they are again. Well, here's the priest, the one who's not Jesus continually repeating the same task over and over. And the text tells us that he does this daily offering repeatedly the same sacrifices which can never take away sins.

We have a Savior who has made the ultimate final finishing sacrifice. We have another greater high priest who has by his perfect blood given the perfect sacrifice that can actually take away our sin. And he's seated at the right hand of God which shows he has the authority to provide that victory. Our salvation dear friends is great because Jesus is great. Jesus is great because he is according to scripture the merciful and faithful high priest. He has offered the sacrifice of his own perfect blood for our eternal redemption, and he is seated at the right hand of God. And so, at this point we ought to just pause and give praise. We ought to see the glory and the majesty of this wonder who is Jesus. And just say hallelujah!

I think it's in your hymnals page 255, Jesus what a friend of sinners. I just remind you of the refrain. It says:

Hallelujah! what a Savior!
Hallelujah! what a friend!
Saving, helping, keeping, loving,
He is with me to the end.

Praise be to our King, praise be to our resurrected Lord who is seated in majesty at the right hand of God. So, we worship him, but we also need to worship him in obedience. I want to conclude our time this morning by offering just a few encouragements about how we might respond to this fantastic news. I remind you Hebrews 2, this is our key passage, it starts off *"Therefore we must pay closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it."* Keeping in mind that Jesus is being presented. The argument is being given that Jesus is greater even greater than the angels. That's what chapter 1 is basically about. He's greater than the angels. He's called the son of the most high. He is established as the king who is on the throne. And as a result of this, that verse 14 chapter 1, even these angels, the ministering spirits, they're sent out for the sake of those who are to inherit the salvation. And so, as a result of that Jesus is greater, this is what we ought to do, pay attention. Pay attention unless we might drift and then he goes on, *"how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation?"*

And so, I want to share with you just three applications about paying close attention. How do we go about paying attention, being on alert? How do we go about carefully considering our salvation and our Savior? How do we give heed to this great salvation? Three things. They all come from Hebrews 10 starting at verse 19. If you turn there we'll read this final passage together. Hebrews 10:19 *"Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus."* Notice the language here. He's giving the implications of this great salvation. *"Since we have confidence."* *"Since we can enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus."* That perfect redeeming blood by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain that is through his flesh. *"And since we have a great priest over the house of God."*

Verse 22, here you go, *"Let us draw near."* *"Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water."* 23, *"Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful."* And then verse 24, *"Let us*

consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near." Three ways to pay attention for being on alert to our great salvation.

First of all draw near, draw near. You see that in verse 22. This means that you not only have access to the King, but you can draw near to the King. It means that we can agree with him, and we can move towards him. It means that for those who are in Christ we have access to the very Holy of Holies. We have access to the very presence of God. Wow! Hebrews 4:16 says, *"Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need."*

Dear one, this morning, do you have that true heart and full assurance of faith? If you're a Christian, if you've been purchased by the blood of Christ, if you've turned from your sin and trusted in Christ look at the access, the glorious wonder of coming into the very presence of God. How do you do that? We're doing it right now. As we gather together as the body of Christ we're enjoying the very presence of God. We do that through prayer. We do that through the just common normal means of reading his word. Draw near to God dear friend.

Now maybe you're here this morning, someone's invited you or you're here for the first time and in this message of good news you're curious about and you are not necessarily sure that you have this full assurance of faith. And so, you're realizing perhaps for the very first time that the eyes of your heart are starting to be opened and you're realizing that your sin is separating you from God. That there's no drawing near in your heart and mind. Dear one can I encourage you? Don't leave this gathering today before you have a conversation with the person who invited you or the person sitting beside you or in front of you or one of the pastors. Let's have a conversation about that. Because it is vital that in order for us to pay attention to this great salvation we can draw near.

Secondly hold fast. Hold fast. Hebrews 10:23 he says *"Hold fast."* This means to stick firmly to. It's like epoxy or resin. It's gluing ourselves to Christ. It's this duct tape of our lives and our hearts. What to? *"The confession of our hope."* You see there he says, *"Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful."* See this is not just pulling up your bootstraps and trying harder. This is not grip tighter because it all depends on you. No, this is holding fast because he is holding you. And we're doing this because he is faithful. He is the one who has promised and so this holding fast this clinging to Christ is us just simply responding into what he is doing for us. It's according to his promise. And so even when we are faithless, he remains faithful. Jesus holds us fast so that we might hold firmly. But keep in mind this is the Holy Spirit igniting your will, the desires of your heart to do something. This is by no means some passive or some kind of apathetic obedience. This is us giving effort because we're loved, and we love. By God's grace we want to hold fast. Not wavering. Don't give up. Maybe today you've gathered in this place and you're ready to throw in the towel. You are like last-ditch effort. Let me encourage you. Hold fast. Jesus is great and the salvation that you have is great, so hold fast.

And then thirdly and lastly another final. And believe me, this is just scratching the surface. Another final way for us to stay alert and not drift but rather enjoy our great salvation is to stir up. Stir up. You see that in verse 24, *"Let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good deeds."* Stirring up means to poke, means to prod. If you've ever worked with animals or cattle or something to that effect, you know that once in a while you have to kind of prod them. You have to poke them to go in the direction they need to go. And sometimes maybe it's in the lunch line at school or at college. The person in front of you you're like come on let's go. Let's go, you know so I can move ahead.

And so, you're poking, you're prodding, you're encouraging them in a heartily way so that you can get to the front of the line. Well in the same way those who belong to Jesus, we need to prod one another. We need to stir one another up. That's why being a part of a church family is so vitally important. This isn't just provoking to be provoking. This is not prodding so that you might do what I want. This isn't like poking so that you'll meet my expectations. No. Notice this is the prodding and the poking and the encouraging so that we might *"stir one another up to love and good deeds."* These are the good deeds that the very good works that God has prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. And so, by God's grace consider how are we doing that for one another. Are we stirring one another to love and good deeds?

You see an aspect of our great salvation is that we get to serve a great Savior. Every Christian needs other Christians to help *"stir one another to love and good deeds."* This is not for our salvation, rather it is from our salvation. It's a result of our relationship with God by grace so that we enjoy, enjoy loving one another and loving those around us and doing the good deeds. And so, think about today, this very day, how might I stir up one of my brothers or sisters in Christ? How might I stir them up to love and good deeds? Maybe it's an encouragement you know. Maybe you send a text to say hey great job doing this thing which you know enables them, equips them to keep going. Maybe you hear of an opportunity, and you say hey would you want to help with this thing? Consider today how we might *"stir one another to love and good deeds."*

Our salvation is great because Jesus is great. He's the author and perfecter of our salvation. He has fulfilled his high priestly duty by faithfully giving his own perfect blood as the ultimate and final sacrifice for our eternal redemption. And now he is seated at the right hand of the Father interceding for you. Dear one, dear Christian, what a Savior. So now I would encourage you pay attention to this great salvation. Draw near to Christ, hold fast to your confession that Jesus Christ is Lord, stir one another to love and good works, and as we are doing this together let's pray and ask Jesus to help us to do so.

Would you bow with me. Hebrews 13:20 & 21 even as the men come forward for communion today, *"Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus."*

O God you are a God of peace and you have brought Christ up from the grave. And he's alive and well today. Jesus you are the great shepherd of your sheep. And Lord it is by the blood of your eternal

covenant would you by your faithfulness and mercy and by your promise would you equip us with everything good that we might do your will. Would you work in us what is pleasing according to your sight. That through our great Savior we might enjoy this great salvation and to God be the glory forever and ever.

Amen and amen.

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