

Hebrews 2:1-4 (KJV) 1 Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip. 2 For if the word spoken by angels was steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward; 3 How shall we escape, **if we neglect so great salvation;** which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him; 4 God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?

Our Subject today is - **the Greatness of Salvation.**

We will look at important questions How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation. **The question many ask – 1 why is this salvation great? 2.** Why does the bible tell us to give heed to it. **3.** And what do we need to escape from?

People ask why should we believe it all? They say the whole message of the cross is foolishness. Is it relevant today? They say religion is a crutch- or religion is the opium of the people.

Then there is a general thinking that, I'm saved, I don't really need to hear the Gospel anymore. Or a Pastor thinks, how can I preach the Gospel in my congregation they are all Christians? Well, this neglect of preaching the Gospel is what is making the church weak. Allow me to give you the benefits why it's good to preach the Gospel in a church and what the scripture says about this. **2Timothy 4:1-4.** Is Pauls solemn Charge to Timothy to do His work with all care and diligence. V5 Do the work of an evangelist. Carved on the Pulpit of the famous preacher, JC Ryle Where He could read it, was "Woe unto me if I preach not the Gospel." He carved a deep underline under NOT. He lived in A time when it was not popular to preach the truth of the Gospel. Isn't this just the same in our day? He did it out of Love for the Lord. A great debt of gratitude. So we too should want to take every opportunity – There are great benefits to preach the Gospel in the Church.

- Even believers are stirred and strengthened when they hear a true Gospel message. Besides nourishing them, it gives them ammunition in their minds that they can draw from when they witness.
- It provides a way of reaching friends and family- If you know a good presentation of the Gospel will be at your church on a Sunday night . You can invite friends. You will be motivated to pray for those you invite. The whole church gets involved in spiritual work.
- The follow up has an interested person involved. The one you brought to hear , you will pray for them, you will maybe get them a bible. You will encourage them.

Can you see the wisdom of such a Gospel Service? It doesn't cost you hundreds of thousands of shillings you don't have. Its reachable by all who have a heart for the Lost. This was the

method and the way for 100's of years! Is it not sad we let the simplicity of the Gospel slip, that we have drifted away to worldly methods and ways.

The old preacher of Argyle Chapel preached the Gospel every Sunday night for 60 years! He saw many churches He knew dry up and collapse. But His Church remained strong till His end. What was remarkable He kept the people's attention. It was never boring. Seldom a repeat. Fresh bread from heaven. That would be 3120 Gospel messages. How can I get so many messages? They saw Jesus in every verse. They preached Salvation from Genesis to Revelation. They used the Miracles of Jesus to explain Salvation, they used the Parables to explain salvation. Generally, there are approximately 37 recorded Miracles that Jesus performed. That's a start 37 Gospel messages already! And about 30 Parables. That's more than a year's preaching already! We don't just preach the same every Sunday, but we expound the Scripture. **I am not ashamed** to own and publish this **gospel of Christ**. I do not shrink back, and withdraw myself, as men do from these things that they are ashamed of. (Rom 1:16)

The Gospel can be neglected both in the publishing of it, but also neglected in the hearing.

Those who are hearing the Gospel. *1 Corinthians 1:18* For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but it is God's power to us who are being saved

If the preaching of the cross is foolishness to you then you fall into the category of THEM that are perishing. the message of the cross is **foolishness**, their hearts have been **hardened**.

Leading Atheists say and write the most ridiculous things – they say God made a mess of this world. What kind of Father sends His own son to die upon a cross. Who is this imagined God who bullies us and tells us what is good and what is bad. The professional Atheist doesn't tell the whole picture, they twist their statements they are full of Great hate towards God.

So many People are hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

We preach the salvation message because so many have lost grip have drifted away and departed from the faith, others have never understood while others still have never heard.

it's a glorious message to a world in trouble. It's a glorious message to a world in pain and suffering. It's a glorious message to those carrying the heavy burden of Guilt. It is SO GREAT A SALVATION How and we keep it to ourselves. Here we shall see the way of escape from a sure and dreadful punishment. *Zephaniah 3:17* *The LORD thy God in the midst of thee is mighty; he will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy; he will rest in his love, he will joy over thee with singing.*

To get a glimpse of the greatness of salvation simply look at The Bible

Just think about the majesty of the Gospel. **"The great trumpet:"** that would give a clarion clear call to the Lost, that would show the way. The great warning call to turn from the power of sin to the power of God. It is elsewhere called a **"great light,"** the people that dwelt in darkness have found a great light. **The great love,** *God who so loved the world that He gave His only begotten*

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son. When we had turned against Him, He Loved us. Elsewhere it is called a “**so great salvation.**” We will see clearly why salvation is so great, in just in a little while. “**It’s called the glorious gospel**”. As we behold it, we are changed from glory to glory. *God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:* It's Higher than anything the world could possibly offer. Unshakable and unmovable its glorious!

The announcement and introduction of Jesus Christ bringing the Gospel was called “the fullness of time.” *Galatians 4:4 But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, 5 To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.* Everything since the foundation of the earth prepared the Way for His coming. **And When He had come, He would draw all men unto Himself.** *And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me. John 12:32*

How true is this, how it’s been fulfilled over and over since He was lifted up on that terrible cross over 2000 years ago, multitudes no man can number have been drawn unto Him through the centuries of History. Is this not abundant proof that wherever Christ the one who was crucified and lifted up is preached, there would be a drawing effect on all mankind.

His death as our substitute and sacrifice for our sins would draw multitudes from every Nation. No other message suits the need of the children of Adam, more than Christ Crucified. Children of every nation every tribe, every language.

Let me put it this way. **Water is vital for natural Life.** It doesn't matter what tribe you are from, what language you speak. Whether you are rich or poor, educated, or uneducated. Water has the one ability to quench the thirst of all men everywhere. It matters not where you are from; what status is; what language you speak; the Gospel Christ Crucified, has the Power to wash away the sins of whosoever will believe.

It is a Glorious Gospel indeed.

Think of the writers of old hymns. The ones who wrote them had had a glimpse of his greatness. His glory His majesty. They had seen something wonderful in the greatness and majesty of salvation.

Glory to the Lamb Whose throne forever reigns. They would exclaim, “Oh for a thousand tongues to sing Praises unto Thee.” Songs like, Amazing grace how sweet the Sound..

I’m sure some of us have had a glimpse of the greatness of God when reading His Word, He is the Lord of all the earth. But not only that, The Lord of Hosts, all the angles, all the people of Heaven gladly bow before Him. The Stars of the sky come forth when He calls them and not one is missing. He says to the sea this far and no further. Not a sparrow falls to the ground unnoticed.

- **Have you tasted for yourself His Kindness.**

So Great Salvation

- His Love toward us. So High so Wide So deep
- Do you think of salvation as great?
- Are you impressed with what Jesus has done for you? Or you just don't know?

Some ask Why should I listen to this Gospel? well its very simple, because every one of us is going to die and then stand face to face with God Himself the author of this great salvation.

WHY IS SALVATION GREAT? the greatness of any message, or any work is determined by WHO THE AUTHOR is *Hebrews 5:9 (KJV) And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him (but not only the author but the source)*

WHO IS SPEAKING TO US? *Hebrews 1:2 has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, by whom also He made the worlds,* ITS NOT A PHILOSOPHISER like Socrates birning the worlds wisdom which is at its best just foolishness to God. NOT A SCIENTIST. NOT A POLITICAL LEADER.

God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, **Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son,**

HE IS TELLING US ABOUT THIS GREAT SALVATION. He the author. The composer, the artist. What makes something valuable? Is it not the author or artist.

*PAINTING STORY. Teri Horton paid \$5 for this original Jackson Pollock painting at a thrift store in San Bernardino, California. It was really abstract and just a lot of splashes of different colours so she decided to sell it in a garage sale. An art teacher recognised it and was honest enough to tell her it looked like an original Jackson Pollock Painting. Well she had it verified and checked and re checked. Yes it was a genuine painting worth 50 million dollars in 1991 What made it so great, so valuable, The artist!

What makes the gospel of salvation so great? The author and artist God Himself.

That is what makes Salvation so valuable. **God Himself the author of it.** The one who planned it who designed it even before the foundation of the earth.

The greatest tragedy is to hear of this great treasure and never do anything with it, or never to value it, to not be thankful for it, to treat it with disrespect.

To despise the Gospel brings the greatest punishment but the same Gospel also bring the greatest gift in life if it is believed, if it is valued, if it is obeyed. So this Gospel is great **because of the greatness of the grace** and also because it brings the greatest punishment and Judgement if it is despised, and refused.

I read that the owner of that painting Teri Horton had a great treasure the valuable painting that was worth 50 million. She had something that could change her life and help her family. But do you know she died and the painting was never sold in her lifetime. How did that help her? She didn't even like the painting! She should have sold it. But now it's too late she has passed away.

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It is the same with the Gospel, the same with this great salvation. It is available on earth under heaven among men. The bible says *Hebrews 3:7-8* **Today, if you will hear** His voice, *8 Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion,*

Believe

Why or what other reason is Salvation great.

To measure the greatness, we need to see what it is able to cure us from. Salvation is great because of the great grace that is offered, the great cure it brings.

Take medicine as an example, just pills Panadol or aspirin... good medicine but can only heal a headache or aches and pains. Its very cheap can heal aches and pains but cant save a life. But there are other medicines very expensive and very powerful. medicins that are able to deliver us from life treating diseases.

Salvation is truly great because it is able to deliver us not from a mere headache, but from a life-threatening condition a condition so serious that it has eternal consequences.

The Gospel is the greatest power in all of history, because of the eternal calamity from which it saves us. **We were condemned to death because of sin** and without a hope and a future, but when Christ Jesus was born in a manger he became the cure the balm of Giliad. For our wound of sin incurable and so grievous for which we had no medicine. But Jesus Came to restore health unto us, to heal our wounds, to pardon our sins.

How can we risk neglecting this message now first spoken by our Lord. How great can the hardness of a heart be that says I'm not interested. How great can the hate for God be that says I don't care He came for me? How proud we must be when we say, I have it all under control, I don't need a Saviour.

Salvation is so great because of what it is able to deliver us from. The terrible consequence of our condition. 'The soul that sinneth, it shall die' *Ezek 18:20*, and of all the many sins the **greatest sin is neglecting so great salvation.**

After all, the message that the angels brought was reliable, and every violation and act of disobedience was properly punished. Oh friends how then shall we escape if we reject the message spoken by God Spoken by his Son Jesus Christ.

God has spoken telling us what he expects - *Luke 10:27 And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself.*

Every one of us will have to stand before God one day and give an account.. if we die in our sinful condition the consequence is unthinkable. Those that refuse to believe are condemned. *John 3:18 He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.*

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Have you believed in the name of the only begotten Son? Have you received this salvation so freely offered, Yes freely offered yet it was not free It came at the highest cost, The only begotten son of God who gave Himself a ransom for all, that He might redeem us from all iniquity.

SALVATION is so powerful it makes the difference between Eternal death and eternal life, everlasting JOY or Everlasting Misery.

The Gospel is the greatest power in all of history, **so great salvation**, because of the eternal calamity from which it saves you.

So great and complete a salvation that gives complete peace of conscience, You may have broken every one of Gods commandments, yet Believe on the Lord Jesus and you shall be saved. Your sins shall be blotted out. **Removed.** Just as if you had never sinned. *Acts 3:19 Therefore repent and convert so that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord.*

Yet there is still more reasons why this salvation is so great, greater reasons yet. And that is not just what it saves you from, **but what it reconciles you to, it is reconciliation to Christ.** *ISA1:18 though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.*

Reconciled, washed, and made clean, Peace made by the death of Jesus Christ.

Have you believed in Jesus - have you relied completely upon Him, placing your complete trust and hope in Him?

God has not prepared the world to come for angles but for us, **Heirs of Salvation.**

Not only are we made Children of God but **we are made Joint heirs together with Him** in Christ, A great inheritance in Him in the world to come.

The Final greatness and glory of this so great salvation.

who it is who died on the Cross . Who was this man Jesus. Was he just the son of Mary and Joseph a Carpenter from Nazareth. No much more than that, It was God speaking to us through His SON Jesus Christ. God Who created the world Jesus, who is the co-creator with God made everything, created the angles. This is he who came from heaven to earth.

We can not risk neglecting this magnificent salvation provided by God Himself, spoken to us by His son. Do you think you can risk drifting away... Can we neglect the one who came down from heaven and entered into every detail of human life. Experienced pain and rejection.

Yet came so he could redeem us back to the Father. Toe one who *Hebrews 2:18 For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.* What does that mean? "To run to the cry of those in danger and bring them aid." What a marvellous salvation; Salvation so great. He doesn't just save us, He also helps us along the way. He provides an eternal inheritance.

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Have you heard those comforting and assuring words, you are my very own. I have redeemed you, I will never leave you nor forsake you. That good work I started in you I will bring it to completion. For he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

God speaking to us now, my sheep hear my voice and another voice they will not follow.

I would gather them as a hen does gather her chicks and under His wing we are kept safe. Don't be like Jerusalem that would not. Run to Him He cares for you.

You need nothing more than Jesus Christ. His pastures are “tender grass;” His waters, “waters of rest.” He refreshes us when exhausted; heals when diseased; restores from wandering; leads in right paths, and protects our rear with the twin-angels, goodness and mercy!

Amen.