

NEGLECTING GOD'S GREAT SALVATION
HEBREWS 2:1-4

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INTRODUCTION

"Neglect" is one of those words that has a negative connotation to it.

It reminds me of the trips my family used to take to Dothan, Alabama to see my grandparents on my Dad's side of the family.

Along the way we would see barns that suffered from years of *neglect*. Come to think of it, my grandfather even had a few of those barns himself!

Strong's Concordance defines the word "*neglect*" as "*to be careless of.*"

Have you ever been "*careless*" with something? *Carelessness* was a regular part of growing up. When I look back at some of the *carelessness* of my youth—especially where I *neglected* good sense, it is only by the grace of God that I've made it to age 61!

Let's focus on the word *neglect* for a moment. Webster's Dictionary gives a 3-fold definition for "*neglect.*"

1. FIRST DEFINITION: TO IGNORE OR DISREGARD.

A. Exp: We Can Ignore or Disregard The Advice Of Others.

1. Children sometime ignore or disregard the advice of their parents or teachers.
2. We all at sometime have ignored or disregarded the advice of someone who we should have paid attention to. (e.g. – Have you ever ignored the advice of a Doctor?)
3. **We can also ignore and disregard the Spiritual leadership God has given us. (Preachers & teachers)**

B. Exp: We Can Ignore or Disregard Laws.

- 1) **Take Natural Laws**—If we ignore or choose to disregard natural laws, we may not live to tell about it. (e.g. Gravity, aerodynamics)

Red necks are known for ignoring natural laws.

The famous last words of a redneck are "*Hey y'all watch this.*"

- 2) **Take Governmental Laws**—If we ignore or choose to disregard these laws, there are possible penalties we may have to pay.
 - a. Speed Limit signs or Stop signs—fine, or penalty, or harm!
 - b. Tax Laws—Fines and penalties, confiscation of property, or even jail time.
- 3) **God's Laws**—If we choose to ignore or disregard God's laws, there are usually some very negative consequences associated with that now and then we will have to give account to God one day.

C. Exp: We Can Ignore Or Disregard Danger Signals.

(Some of you might remember the TV program "*Lost In Space*" and how Mr. Smith was always ignoring the danger signals of the robot? It was never a good thing!)

- 1) Railroad Crossing Lights And Signals.
- 2) Idiot Lights Or Gauges On The Dashboard Of An Automobile.
- 3) Danger Signs On Power Equipment.
- 4) **How About Danger Signals From The Holy Spirit?**

2. SECOND DEFINITION: TO FAIL TO CARE FOR OR ATTEND TO SUFFICIENTLY OR PROPERLY; TO SLIGHT.

A. Neglect Of Maintenance (Or We Might Say "Failing To Maintain").

1. Home or Automobile.
2. Body. (Proper Diet, Sleep, Exercise)

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HEBREWS 2:1-4**

3. Personal Hygiene. (Bathing, Brushing Teeth, Hair Care, Washing Clothes)
4. Relationships.
 - a. Wife. (Winds up in divorce.)
 - b. Children. (Wind up in a bad way.)
 - c. Friends.
 - d. **God.**

B. NEGLECT OF RESPONSIBILITY.

- 1) Providing For Those Of Your Own Household.
(1 Timothy 5:8)
- 2) We are expected to provide food, clothing, shelter.
- 3) **What About Responsibility Toward God?**

3. THIRD DEFINITION: TO FAIL TO CARRY OUT AN EXPECTED OR REQUIRED ACTION THROUGH CARELESSNESS OR BY INTENTION; TO LEAVE UNDONE.

A. This May Involve Neglect Of Duty.

1. Members Of The Armed Forces.

- a) Expected To Not Be AWOL.
- b) Expected To Not Desert.

Failure to do so brings consequences—
KP Duty, Court Martial

2. Creditors.

- a) Expect You To Pay Your Bills.
- b) Expect You To Pay On Time.

Failure to do so brings consequences—late charges, termination of services, repossession.

**NEGLECTING GOD'S GREAT SALVATION
HEBREWS 2:1-4**

3. What About Duty Toward God?

We talked about this last Sunday night.
Christian Duty – A Duty To Submit To God!
Failure to do so brings consequences.

B. This May Involve Neglect Of Opportunity.

- 1) Something says in order to get this price you must respond by a certain date.
- 2) A coupon expires on a certain date.
- 3) You see something you want or need and you delay purchasing it only to come back and find it gone.

4) What About Opportunities God Gives Us?

a. To The Lost

1. Opportunities To Hear The Gospel.
2. Opportunities To Get Saved.

b. To The Saved.

1. Opportunities To Get Right With God.
2. Opportunities To Hear Good Preaching Or Teaching.
3. Opportunities For Service.
 - a) To Hand Out A Gospel Tract.
 - b) To Witness For The Lord.
 - c) Do Something For God.

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I. WHAT CAUSES "NEGLECT?"

The things that cause us to neglect other things in our life are the same things that cause us to neglect our salvation.

- A. Wrong Priorities.** (Matthew 6:33)
Something else becomes more important.
- B. Failure To Plan.**
- C. Failure To Pay Attention To.**
- D. Too Busy Doing Other Things.**
- E. Too Much Effort Involved.**
- F. Failure To See The Importance Of.**
- G. Don't Like Doing It.** (Exp—Washing Cars, Shining Shoes, Shaving)
- H. Taking Things For Granted.**
- I. We Think We Know Better.**
- J. Not Learning From The Mistakes Of Others.**
- K. Nor Learning From Our Past Mistakes.**

II. WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY THAT WE SHOULD BE CAREFUL ABOUT NEGLECTING?— "SO GREAT A SALVATION.

- A. Those Who Are Lost Need To Be Careful About Neglecting So Great A Salvation!**
 - 1. Because The Bible Says Today Is The Day Of Salvation.
 - 2. Because We Have No Promise Of Tomorrow.

3. Because We Have No Promise That God's Spirit Will Continue To Strive With Us.

4. Because You May Wait One Day Too Late— Opportunity Is Gone!

B. Those Who Are Saved Need To Be Careful About Neglecting So Great A Salvation!

- 1. For The Sake Of Those Who Are Lost.
- 2. For The Sake Of Our Families.
- 3. For The Sake Of The Church.
- 4. For Our Own Sake.

CONCLUSION

Is Christ your Savior?—If not, are you guilty of neglect this morning? (Like King Agrippa—you know the facts of Christianity are credible, but you are not quite ready to make that step. Something else is more important right now. You are almost there but not yet. He told Paul, "*Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian!*")

If Christ is your Savior—Are you guilty of neglecting the great Salvation that you possess this morning?

Other things take priority in your life and you leave Christ with just the leftovers if there are any.

Why don't you ask God to help you set proper priorities and not neglect that which is most important!