

**May 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday 2015**

**Text: Hebrews 2:1-4**

**Topic: Warning to pay good attention**

The question is why is it necessary to pay careful attention to the words of the Bible, the words from preachers and pastors? The reason is because lack of paying attention will make us drift away from the TRUTH, from Christ, and turn away from true faith in Him and by turning away from Christ, we ignore a great salvation that comes through faith in Him. There is no other way to escape from the punishment that will come upon those who do not believe in Christ. We must pay more attention to what we have heard.

That which we heard in the gospel of Christ through him we will be saved. And if we reject this gospel, we will be punished. We need the Bible to know this better. The Gospel is first announced to us by Christ our Lord, then the prophet prophesied about His coming; however Christ is the fulfillment of the prophets. Luke 4:17-21.

This salvation that is given to mankind was announced by Christ, this was confirmed by the apostles who heard Christ. The gospel was not a rumor or manmade tale. Both the writer and the readers of the letter heard the Gospel from men (apostles) who heard and seen Christ with their own ears and eyes. God also testified through signs, wonders and various miracles and also gifts of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:22, 43, 1Cor 12:7-11). How then can we or anyone ignore such great salvation? Since the time of the Apostles, everyone knew about their signs, miracles, and God's powerful work within people. It continues today among his children. Today the prayers of believers are performing miracles, healing the sick and giving millions new life through the power of the Holy Spirit. If we ignore the teaching of the Bible, prayer and his presence where will the future be like? We will certainly drift into different ways. Man cannot make it alone, we need Christ. Read your bible, study it, pray and share it.

**Lessons:** Let us not doubt that God's great power is at work always. It seems to be so when we ignore the word of God, and fail to study it or share it. Read your bible you will be blessed and you will never drift away by the challenges of life.

**Prayer:** Help me o God not to ignore your word for it is life. I don't want to get lost in the worldly life

**May 4<sup>th</sup> Monday 2015**

**Text: Hebrews 2:5-18**

**Topic: Kingdom of God where Christ Reigns**

The present world has been subjected to the control of angels, some good and others evil (Dan 10:20-21, John 16:11, Eph 6:12) but the world to come will be subjected to God's own son. This world to come is the kingdom of God, over which Christ will reign from His throne at the right hand of God. The kingdom began when Jesus Christ came to the world (Matt 12:28, Luke 17:20-21). But will be fully established when He comes again. Christ came in form of man lower than Angels after that God

crowned him with glory and Honor, after His resurrection from death. Putting everything under Christ's feet, under his authority (Ephesians 1:20-22, Hebrews 1:13, Psalms 8:4-6) these verses depict the picture of an ordinary man, in this context it refers to Christ as the perfect man.

What is true to know is the fact Christ has all power and authority and seated at the right hand of the God. The truth is that Christ has been given all the power and authority and everything is now subject to Him. However we could still see Satan at work in the world, and the influence of sin in the lives of people. Christ allows Satan for a time, but when He comes, He will completely destroy the work of Satan. In spite of Satan atrocities in this world, believers should see Christ in charge and put their trust in Him. We should then endure suffering and know that he went through these sufferings to make our salvation real and true. We should look up to Him, He who has atoned for us, is able to sympathize with us in our weaknesses (Heb 4:15). Today we are suffering for Christ just as He did suffered. He will give us joy and peace (I Cor. 1:3-5) in all our condition until He fully established His kingdom where He will rule and reign forever.

**Lesson:** Jesus Christ is in every way our perfect high priest and Saviour. His atonement has justified us in the sight of God and brought us peace with God (Rom. 5:1). Christ who was tempted in the same way knows our present situation in Nigeria and the World. Let's trust Him for the future.

**Prayer:** Christ my Saviour help me to understand you more and more so that in every situation I will remain faithful to your worship.

**May 5<sup>th</sup> Tuesday 2015**

**Text: Hebrews 3:1-6**

**Topic: Jesus Greater than Moses**

Comparison is something that is common among humans, but it is not difficult to differentiate between God and man. It is necessary for us if we want life to fix our thoughts on Jesus than man. To live is to meditate daily and think about Jesus.

Jesus is here called an Apostle and high priest. He is man's representative before God. As apostle He was sent forth to reveal God to man, as High priest he has reconciled man to God. Jesus was faithful to God who appointed Him to be an apostle and high Priest. As children of God it is necessary for us to be obedient to our father, our creator and the sustainer of our lives. How obedient are we to even our earthly parents, our seniors and boss in place of work. Obedience is necessary in life. The passage compares Jesus and Moses, Moses was faithful and obedient to God. He was the great Jewish leader who led the Jewish nations out of bondage from Egypt to a new land. He received the Old Testament law and gives it to the Jews. The same way Moses was a mediator between God and Jews, Jesus was in the New Testament a mediator between God and man.

The reason of this author's comparison is not to compare God and man, but to reveal or show that Jesus is greater than Moses. What benefit is it to turn from greater God to a lesser one?

Moses was like steward in God's House but Jesus is God Himself. He is the builder and owner of the House, there is no comparison between a steward and the

owner of the house. The builder of everything is God that is Jesus Christ the only comparison is in the basis of their faithfulness. Moses was a faithful steward while Jesus was faithful son over God's house (His kingdom). We are therefore encouraged not to turn to a lesser god or servant for power, or rulers, good health or salvation etc. We should remember Christ is above all, rules all and gives all.

**Lesson:** We are God's house hold, if we hold on to our courage and the hope of which we boast. (Mark 4:5-6, 16-17)

**Prayer:** My Lord and my God it is easy to loose hold of you in this evil generation help me to have courage to endure to the end in Jesus name Amen.

**May 6<sup>th</sup> Wednesday 2015**

**Text: Hebrews 3:7-11**

**Topic: Warning Against Unbelief**

The words of God are His own words they should never be equated with other books of the world. Word spoken by God are different from human word (Psalms 95:7-11) there is danger in treating the word of God on the same level with newspaper. This is common today where many scholars think they have arrived, given the devil good avenue to make it proclaim that the Bible is same with every other book. This is devil's scheme.

Moses delivered the Jews from bondage in Egypt and led them out of the desert of Sinai then to the boarder of Israel, the land God promised Abraham's descendants. However during the forty years they were in the desert of Sinai, the Jews continually complained against God and their leader Moses. In doing this, they tested and tried God. This continuous attitude provoked and angered God. And God declared an oath that these rebellious and complaining Jews would never enter, the promise land, He promised Abraham in Numbers 14:21-23.

In same way this generation of Hebrews whom the letter was written to, were about to fall into similar temptation just like their parents. So the author warns them not to repeat what happened in the desert. Those Jews, who stopped trusting God, did not enter the land. It is possible that it will happen to these Hebrews again. It is likely to happen to day's Jews and that we should not tempt God nor rebel against His son Jesus. If we believe in Christ and then turn round to reject Him, or oppose Him we too will not go unto His rest. We need to encourage one another daily to stand in the faith. If we want to follow Christ by our strength, we will easily become discouraged and turn back. But by joining together and encouraging one another, together we can go forward in faith (Heb 10:25). The Holy Spirit is speaking to us to listen, tomorrow may be too late and Satan is trying to lead people into temptation by hardening their hearts to sin and deceit. We are struggling between following the spirit and flesh. We have to stand firm and remain in Christ, you should not shake in your faith!

**Lesson:** Unbelief is a dangerous sin, it begins by doubting the Bible little by little. Let this not happen to us today. This is why it is necessary for us to be part of the church fellowship it helps us to stand firm. Be at Bible study, prayer meetings, Choir, ZME etc. you cannot be a Christian without fellowship with brethren it is dangerous.

**Prayer:** God Almighty, help me not to doubt you but to be part of the church fellowship and remain faithful to the end.

**May 7<sup>th</sup> Thursday, 2015**

**Text: Hebrews 4:1-11**

**Topic: Where do we Find Rest?**

The struggle of man under the universe is to find rest from the Wahala of this world; struggle must have a beginning and end.

God sent Jesus Christ into the world to lead us into His rest, that is, heaven. This is what every soul is designed for Heaven. For all who believe in Christ, the promise of entering his rest still stands. Yet it is possible for us to “fall short of it” This can possibly happen through what we treated in the previous lesson, unbelief to forfeit the promise and not get to enter God’s rest. It is not enough to hear the Gospel preached to us, we must combine it with Faith. The ancient Jews heard it but they did not accept it with faith. The Bible says “let us be careful lest any of us be found to have fallen short” and fail to enter God’s Rest. Some people think we should never worry but Hebrews says we should about any salvation Christ will never fail us but we can fail Christ through unbelief (I Cor. 10:12) remember those who persist in faith to the end will enter God’s rest, it is not our rest but God’s rest. He called it my rest.

What is God’s Rest? God has been resting since after creation! (Gen 2:2) it is that place with God where everything. Brethren disbelief is a sin of disobedience (Rom 14:23) it is a basic form of disobedience refusal to believe. It leads to other sins.

- Unbelief leads to the loss of power to overcome sin
- Unbelief makes man to be separated from God
- Unbelief therefore can prevent man from entering God’s rest, which is the kingdom of God.

It is not too late to repent and reverse it. God is giving you and me opportunity to change and enter his rest which is the kingdom of God. Do you hear His voice calling? Now is the day? The day of salvation (2 Cor. 6:2) let us not harden our hearts (Psalm 95:7). It is possible you have been listening to preachers & pastors, and you are still dragging your feet, for how long will you continue in this situation? Wake up; Jesus is ready to lead you to His Rest Today.

**Lesson:** Unbelief is growing among the population today, people are questioning why should God be so cruel to only open one door, why not many, why not allow people to go through all religion? But why not agree with the only door Jesus which is Christ? Disbelief can lead to Hell fire!

**Prayer:** Situations can easily raise questions and later to disbelief God help me to remain in Jesus for He is the only door to rest.

**May 8<sup>th</sup> Friday 2015**

**Text: Hebrews 4:12-16**

**Topic: Jesus the great High Priest**

From the previous lessons the author has already reminded us that we need to hear the word of God. This time around we are not only able to hear the word and have

faith but we must obey it (Matt 7:24-27). For the word of God is living and active. Through prophet Isaiah God said, concerning His word. "It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what had been declare and achieve the purpose for which is sent" Isaiah 55:11. God's word is like the double edged sword. To the believer, it brings salvation (Rom 1:16). To the unbeliever it brings judgment (John 3:18) God's word is also sharp like a sword; it penetrates to man's inner mind and conscience. It judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. God's word is Christ's word! But more than that, God word is Christ Himself (John 1:14). Christ brings judgment, salvation, judge's thoughts and attitudes of the heart of people. Jesus sees into our hearts nothing is hidden from Him and God. We can hide our thoughts and desires from people but not God.

Man can hide only for a while, but a day will come when all the contents of our thoughts, hearts and mind will be uncovered and laid bare for accountability before God. Today the word of God speaks to us "come follow me" (Mark 1:17) what answer do you give? Jesus is our great high priest. He is seated at the right hand of God. He has gone before us to prepare a place for us (John 14:2) so that we do not lose it. Jesus knows we are weak. He knows how great temptations are, He went through it. Therefore He is able to help us (Heb 2:18) we can talk to Him as a friend, father and our God. He completely understand our situations, we can obtain salvation (Heb 5:8-9). Because He is merciful and perfect High Priest, we can approach the throne of grace. We can come directly into His presence with confident, even now, He is at God's right hand side interceding on our behalf (Rom 8:34, Heb 7:25-26).

**Lesson:** When trails and temptations come our way, let's not run and hide from God but let's go out a t once before Jesus, He will help us in time of need.

**Prayer:** O Lord Jesus we are happy that we have a father like you, help us not to disbelief nor turn from you when trails and temptations come our way but relay on you for help. Amen

**May 9th Saturday 2015**

**Text: Hebrews 5:1-10**

**Topic: Jesus Our High Priest**

For someone to become a Jewish high priest two things were necessary (1). The high priest was selected from among men. (2).The high priest was appointed by God. The function of the high priest was to offer gifts and sacrifices, and make atonement for the sins of the people.

Because the Jewish high priests were men, they themselves fell into sin from time to time because of their own weakness; they were able to deal gently with those who were ignorant and going astray. However they did not deal gently with those who sinned deliberately and refused to repent. According to Jewish law, there was no forgiveness for those who sinned knowingly (Numbers 15:27-31; Hebrews 9:7) because the Jewish high priest sins from time to time they were required to offer sacrifice for their own sin before doing for others. (Leviticus 16:6) only a high priest who is cleansed from sin could offer sacrifice of sins for others. High priest does not appoint themselves, they are appointed by God (Exodus 28:1-2).

In the same way Christ was appointed by God, he was not only appointed, He is His Son, He was appointed to be the high priest forever. The priesthood of Jesus preceded that of Aaron. His priesthood was made through suffering which He obeyed to the end. Therefore He became the perfect high priest, who can give eternal Salvation to all who obey Him. It was through obedience that Jesus became the source of Salvation. In the same way we are required to be obedient to obtain it. Jesus is the source of Salvation to all who obey Him, and those who believe in Him.

**Lesson:** Know that both faith and obedience together are necessary for our salvation.

**Prayer:** My Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ I pray that you give me the grace of obedience and ability to put my faith in you so that I will not go astray. Amen.