

- **Avoid spiritual drift.**

1 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.

“give earnest heed” = “give all the more attention” = bring a ship to land and tie it up.

2 Pet. 1:19 And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts,

“drift away” = “drifting past the harbor”

1 Tim. 1:18-19 This charge I entrust to you, Timothy, my child, in accordance with the prophecies previously made about you, that by them you may wage the good warfare, 19 holding faith and a good conscience. By rejecting this, some have made shipwreck of their faith,

Heb. 6:19 We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain,

The Westminster Clock Tower in London (mistakenly referred to as “Big Ben,” the name of the bell within the tower) was built in the 1800’s, and has since become an international, instantly recognizable landmark. The clock faces stand 180 feet above ground, and each one is 23 feet across. Housed within the structure is a massive swinging pendulum that regulates the clockwork mechanism. This pendulum weighs in at over 660 pounds, yet sitting on the top of this weight are a number of old English pennies. The minute mass added by each penny might seem to be negligible amount, but for each penny removed or added, two-fifths of a second are gained or lost per day.

Two-fifths of a second. Not much...right?

But, given 100 years, at that rate, it would result in a difference of 4 hours.

From two-fifths of a second to 4 hours is quite a span of time. All because you add or remove one penny.

A small truth rightly applied (or misapplied), a seemingly miniscule act of obedience or careful stewardship of those things that others see as trivial can all add up over time.

Mind your pennies.

Where are you tending to drift?

- **Take God's command seriously.**

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,

The word of angels proved steadfast

Mediators of the law (somehow)

Deut. 33:1-2 This is the blessing with which Moses the man of God blessed the people of Israel before his death. 2 He said, "The LORD came from Sinai and dawned from Seir upon us; he shone forth from Mount Paran; he came from the ten thousands of holy ones, with flaming fire at his right hand.

Acts 7:38 This is the one who was in the congregation in the wilderness with the angel who spoke to him at Mount Sinai, and with our fathers. He received living oracles to give to us.

7:52-53 "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."

Gal. 3:19 Why then the law? It was added because of transgressions, until the offspring should come to whom the promise had been made, and it was put in place through angels by an intermediary.

Transgression=doing wrong

Disobedience=not doing right

“Under law, we are blessed and grow spiritually by earning and deserving. Under grace, we are blessed and grow spiritually by believing and receiving.”

We often don't take God's commands seriously because of the grace that has been offered to us. The danger of grace is that it forces us to not become focused on a list of do's and don't's but upon something living, breathing and vibrant. It's not a checkmark on the Post-It note beside a completed task; it's our air, it's our sustenance, our power, our life.

SINAI OR ZION COMPARISON...

Heb. 12:18-24 For you have not come to what may be touched, a blazing fire and darkness and gloom and a tempest 19 and the sound of a trumpet and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that no further messages be spoken to them. 20 For they could not endure the order that was given, "If even a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned." 21 Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I tremble with fear." 22 But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, 23 and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, 24 and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

Recognize the divine confirmation.

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.

It's a trustworthy message because

The Lord spoke it (3a), it was confirmed by witnesses (3b), and God Himself bore witness

Mark 16:19-20 So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God. 20 And they went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by accompanying signs.

Eph. 1:19-20 and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might 20 that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places

Signs = divine interventions manifesting God's nature and revealing His purpose
(Same word as "autograph" or signature)

Wonders = extraordinary events of miraculous nature that create awe

Miracles = displays of power

Acts 1:4-8

Acts = filled with the Holy Spirit = bold public witness