



WOW: Word Of the Week

Intentionality

July 27, 2022

Sunday morning's sermon focused on Hebrews 2:1-3. Three verbs carry the writer's message. (1) Pay more careful attention. The word can refer to guiding a boat into a port, being aware of the dangers, the currents, and the wind. (2) The danger is that if you do not pay attention, you will slip on by – another nautical metaphor that referred to unintentionally passing by the port. (3) We must never be uncaring about salvation.

How sad that some, even Christians, neglect, make light of, and are uncaring about eternity!

The writer is saying that we must be intentional about salvation, eternity, our spiritual safety! How can our understandings and our conversations about salvation be so shallow! Down at the church house, conversations about salvation are often focused on the future—what we are saved to, our reward, the glory of heaven. In times past, it was more common to hear sermons about what we are saved from, words of warning.

How often do we talk about the present? Today's WOW is encouragement for the present tense – in the word intentionality. Purposefully intentional.

Yes, the saving work of God has already been done in Jesus Christ. But the words of Hebrews 2 have to have meaning and application. Three questions; three words—perhaps memorable.

What do you pay the most attention to? What consumes your life? Your thinking? Your planning? Your days? What is the thought that you can't get out of your mind? What are you always talking about? What constantly occupies your thinking? This is your priorities. We pay attention to priorities. We do not forget priorities.

What is at the top of your "can't miss, must do" bucket list? What do you not want to pass you by? What will you never let slip away? Our lives give our answer – and at times it appears we invest much of our lives and resources in this world – enjoyment, leisure, things, and experiences. This is your values. What matters most? What is so valuable that you are making sacrifices to make it reality?

What do you care about – more than anything else? If I could just _____ (you fill in the blank), my life would be complete. Something you would never neglect, overlook, make light of. This is your focus; this is where everything else makes sense. This is your ultimate!

Intentionality is the focal point of priorities and values, the place where what we care about most comes into clear focus and makes sense.

One possible translation of the last part of the text is this. "How will we ever get out of here if we don't care about God's salvation?" God's work in your life! That is ultimately what will completely, totally define, integrate, and connect every part of your life, giving life meaning, defining the abundant life, bringing the priorities that grab your attention and the values that explain your "musts" into perfect focus.