**The Confirmation and Witness of the Gospel**

*Hebrews 2:1-4*

**Introduction**

1. The gospel is God’s good message that gives the world hope.
2. As Christians (partakers of the message – those who have obeyed) we must take heed lest we neglect this great salvation by falling away in disobedience.
3. Due to the confirmation and witness of the gospel we can be positive about our salvation if we walk faithfully, and our punishment if we disobey.
4. Gospel Plan of Salvation Begins with God

* Hebrews 1:1-2 – God communicates through His son. The message originates with God.
* Ephesians 1:3-6 – Spiritual blessings are from God given in Christ.
  + Before the foundation of the world God made the plan.
* Ephesians 2:4-5 – God loved us and communicated that love to us through His Son.
  + For this reason we should love God – 1 John 4:10
* Job 42:2 – No purpose or plan is withheld from God. If He said it was going to happen it will happen.

1. First it was spoken by Christ.

* Matthew 4:17, 23 – Jesus preached about the kingdom.
  + The kingdom is the place of the saved. You must be a citizen in the kingdom to attain salvation.
* John 8:18, 19, 28-29; 14:9-11 – His message is from the Father.
* John 8:31-32; 11:25; 14:1-4 – His message is one of freedom, life, and salvation.

1. Then it was confirmed by the Apostles.

* Acts 10:39-43 – The apostles saw Jesus’ ministry and told it to others. They were given a message to preach!
* 1 John 1:1-4 – It is through their message that we can have fellowship with the Father and the Son!
  + They received the helper (HS) as a means to be Christ’s witnesses – John 16:7
* 1 Corinthians 2:13-16 – They were given the HS to know the mind of Christ.

1. God bore witness.

* Acts 2:22; John 20:30-31 – God worked in Jesus to confirm who He was, and the message He preached!
* Acts 1:8 – The Apostles were given power to confirm the message they brought.
* 1 Corinthians 14:12 – Spiritual Gifts were given to edify the church. This was teaching and learning. The purpose was to proclaim God’s message.
  + 1 Corinthians 13:8-10 – These gifts were temporary.
* All of these were meant to provoke thought of the truth of God in the people that saw them.
  + Signs – an indication. (Miracles that indicated the message was from God.)
  + Wonders – something unnatural and wondrous. (Attracts attention that shows God’s power is responsible.)
  + Miracles – supernatural occurrence. (Something only God can do that would attract attention to the fact.)
  + Gifts of the HS – miraculous gifts given to confirm a message as being God’s word, and to reveal God’s will.

**Conclusion**

1. The fact that God’s message is confirmed so adequately should provoke us to zealous obedience.
2. God will reward the faithful, and He will punish the unfaithful.
3. Be faithful until death and you can be sure to receive the promise! (cf. Revelation 2:10).