

**How to treat a message:**

1: For this reason... Ch. 2 builds on Ch.1:

1: 'It is necessary' 'exceedingly, extraordinarily' 'to give full attention to' what was heard.  
eg. research vs. normal speech; tereo = guard, keep intact. John 14:15, 21, 23

Lest 'drift past destination with current' (1x)

Default is to drift with currents. Solution is not effort but paying attention to words of Ch.1.

Recent Christianity is mainly many sermons while drifting with society.

What motivates paying attention to a message? Thomas Kuhn; *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*:  
"Once a first paradigm through which to view nature has been found, there is no such thing as research in the absence of any paradigm. To reject one paradigm without simultaneously substituting another is to reject science itself".

For a scientist, 'Just believe' or 'It is a mystery' is mental suicide.

**Two kinds of feedback:**

**Angel** = technical specialization.

2: Word *through* angels; Law from Nature *through* technical specialization.

'solid enough to walk on': science → technology.

'each part of totality' of 'stepping over the line' and 'refusal to listen properly' (3x)

received 'righteous, just' 'compensation corresponding to particular decision' (3x, in Hebrews).

Violate natural consequence or ignore natural law → specific cause-and-effect, guided by general law.  
eg. don't step off the cliff.

**Incarnation** = God the Word becoming flesh in order to save people.

3: How 'flee away' if 'view as having no value' such 'coming of age, maximum potential' salvation?

Like spread of computers. Daniel 2: stone destroys great statue, then grows.

eg. 3<sup>rd</sup> commandment. Angelic: God will zap me if I swear.

Incarnational: God will not hold someone guiltless who makes God's name empty.

### **What science claims to do versus what science really does:**

“The scientific enterprise as a whole does from time to time prove useful, open up new territory, display order, and test long-accepted belief. Nevertheless, the individual engaged on a normal research problem is almost never doing any one of these things. Once engaged, his motivation is of a rather different sort. What then challenges him is the conviction that, if only he is skilful enough, he will succeed in solving a puzzle that no one before has solved or solved so well. Many of the greatest scientific minds have devoted all of their professional attention to demanding puzzles of this sort.”

Science claims to be incarnational but is now mainly angelic.

- 1) Inheriting a better name. Acquiring character versus learning profession (v.4).  
We are scientists, but becoming famous more important than acquiring character.
- 2) Relationship with God the Father. Universal understanding versus limited specialization (v.5).  
We follow universal understanding, but puzzle-solving is above opening up new territory.
- 3) Let angels worship Incarnation. Submitting specializations to Incarnation (v.6).  
There is one science, but specialization fragments integration.
- 4) Righteousness versus continuation. What God is doing vs. how things are done (v.7).  
We study evidence from the natural world, but methodology has become all-important.
- 5) Loving God’s ways. Repulsed by rebellion. Motivation versus rules (v.9).  
We pursue learning, but strictly enforce technical rules.

1:14: Are they not all ministering spirits, sent out to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation?

Christianity can fill this void: “Paul effectively invented ‘Christian theology’ to meet a previously unknown need, to do a job which had not, until then, been necessary.” NT Wright, PFG.

But Christianity is only partially filling this void:

Theology says it studies God but often uses vague words to say God transcends understanding.  
Exalted language about God and Jesus does not provide a paradigm for science.  
Science will then turn to another theory—like evolution—for a paradigm.

3: First declared by God. Then those having heard find it ‘solid to walk on’.  
Starts with explicit paradigm; a set of glasses to view the world. (Not physical evidence).  
This paradigm is then tested in reality. (Not blind faith or lofty generalities.)  
eg. Jesus is Word made flesh who did what he saw the Father do.