

THE DANGER OF DRIFTING

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) We must understand why Hebrews was written
 - i) They were abandoning Christianity and going reverting to the old law
 - ii) Persecution was already bad for Jews, but it was even more so for Christians
 - iii) So the author of Hebrews encourages these brethren not to go back, not to give up
 - iv) He uses the superiority of Christ to convince them why they must not go back
- b) The danger of drifting – **Heb 2:1-4**
 - i) They were ritualistically and emotionally attached to various aspects of Judaism
 - ii) 2000 years later, we also can be attached to old habits and ways!
 - iii) Circumstances in our lives can just as easily cause us to swim down stream with the rest of society
 - iv) Drifting is filled with many unseen dangers
 - v) Therefore we must be sober and watchful

2) WE MUST BE SOBER AND WATCHFUL

- a) Some drifting is common for all Christians
 - i) Yet it is a serious danger; else the author would never have mentioned it
 - ii) The danger of drifting involves a neglect on our part – **Heb 2:3**
 - iii) “Neglect” means “a lack of attention or a lack of respect for something”
 - iv) If we weren’t already saved, it would be impossible for us to “neglect” our salvation.
You don’t neglect something you don’t already have
 - v) Neglect comes as we stop paying attention to the dangers that are around us
- b) Notice another warning given to us in Heb 3 - **Heb 3:12-14**
 - i) **Gal 6:1** – Paul tells us in this verse that if a brother falls, you pick him up
 - ii) Heb 3 is similar, yet different in that it is preventative
 - iii) Heb 3 warns us to watch in advance so we won’t have to pick up a fallen brother
 - iv) This is an attitude we must have if we’re going to make it in this ungodly world
 - v) Drifting is subtle and deceptive like all sin. It comes when we’re not looking
 - vi) There are various “currents” in our society that can cause us to drift away

3) THE “CURRENT” OF TIME

- a) The average Christian has to live 60, 70, 80 years of endured faithfulness to God
 - i) **Gal 6:9** - “In due time” is a hard phrase for us to swallow. We’re a culture obsessed with wanting its rewards right now
 - ii) Not seeing a physical reward at this moment can cause us to slack off in our duties
 - iii) But God does not forget!
- b) Normal routine of life - Time breeds familiarity
 - i) The church of Ephesus had this problem – **Rev 2:4-5**
 - ii) They were a very sound church other than this one thing
 - iii) Jesus Himself said that unless they repented, He would remove their lamp stand
- c) Letting the past be the past - a problem for both new and old Christians
 - i) We have difficulty believing God has forgiven us, so we often can not forgive ourselves
 - ii) So sin sits on our shoulders, weigh us down, eat us apart, makes us bitter about life, ultimately distracting us from doing the work that God would have us to do
 - iii) He sent His Son to die for us – that’s how serious He is about wanting to forgive us

4) THE “CURRENT” OF SOCIETY

- a) Corruption and temptations of the society in which we live

- i) Keeping the wrong kind of company – **1 Cor 15:33**
- ii) We fool ourselves into thinking that we can maintain close intimate relationships with people who are not Christians and expect their habits not to roll off on us
- iii) This is not to mean we cannot establish friendships with people in the world. We have to do that if we're going to let our light shine
- iv) But we can attach ourselves so much to people that we begin to imitate them
- v) Friends imitate one another
- b) False religious doctrine causes us to drift away from the truth
 - i) If you are not strong in your convictions, sound in the doctrine, knowledgeable of the true Lord's church, you can easily be lured away
 - ii) These doctrines sound really great when you first hear them, appealing to the flesh
 - iii) **Jude 12** - promise grand things but they have no substance to them whatsoever
 - iv) **Eph 6:16** - Else we'll find ourselves swimming downstream

5) ***THE "CURRENT" OF THE FLESH***

- a) The danger of drifting away also comes from internal influences, from our flesh
 - i) **1 Pet 2:11** –We are at war
 - ii) This does not just mean sexual lusts, but anything that our flesh clings to that would put us and our desires before God (careers, our hobbies, possessions, our toys, etc)
 - iii) They cause our priorities to become backwards
- b) Causes us to drift away from that which is spiritual
 - i) **Gal 5:16-17** - "This town ain't big enough for the both of us"
 - ii) We need to learn to be content with what God has given us

6) ***THE "CURRENT" OF DAILY CONCERNS***

- a) Daily concerns and anxiety distracts us from fulfilling our obligations towards God
 - i) We become sick of our jobs, church, of life in general
 - ii) It causes us to turn our backs on God, blaming Him for our unhappiness
 - iii) **Luke 8:14; 21:34** – Pain and suffering is just sometimes apart of life

7) ***THE "CURRENT" OF BRETHREN FAILURES***

- a) Sad fact – not every Christian can be counted on in times of need
 - i) Many people in the church are no different than those in the world
 - ii) Selfishness, spiritual apathy, pride, envy, gossip, lying, lack of concern for the work of the church, lack of concern of encouraging those who need encouragement, are common
 - iii) There is a danger of drifting to those whom these brethren fail
 - iv) From my experience, nothing poses more of a danger to drifting away from the truth than not being able to count on a brother or sister in Christ

8) ***CONCLUSION***

- a) We need to pay close attention to the things that can cause us to drift away
 - i) This is important because drifting away from the truth is always so subtle
 - ii) Step outside of the box and look at the kind of life you are living right now. Is there anything going on that is a potential danger to your spiritual welfare? If so, get rid of it!
 - iii) This will often demand sacrifice in some regard, but the eternal blessings benefited from it will far exceed the temporary discomfort
- b) As you filter out the bad influences, keep track of your progress and ask yourself these questions:
 - i) How am I doing after a month?
 - ii) How am I doing after 6 months?
 - iii) How am I doing after a year?