

AM I DRIFTING?

Heb. 2:1-3

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Drifting very dangerous, can happen unnoticed. "Two young men fishing above dam on river near home. While concentrating on fishing unaware they had drifted close to water flowing over dam. When realized situation, current had become too powerful to keep boat from going over. Below was great boulders and crevices in rocks. Caught by the swirling waters under rocks, they never came to surface. After days of searching, divers found one body, and two or three more days later, other. It was a sad occasion when these two young men lost their lives in the bloom of youth. It was also sad -- but tempered with hope and thanksgiving -- when I preached the funeral of one, the one I had baptized only a week before." (By Billy Norris, from Gospel Guide)
- B. Some Christians are drifting toward spiritual destruction

DISCUSSION:

I. THINGS WE SHOULD KNOW ABOUT DRIFTING

- A. Requires no effort; just stop rowing; drift unawares
- B. Christians slowly drifted away - churches as well
- C. Never drift upstream - Christianity like rowing upstream can't stand still, go back 2Pet 3:18; Matt 5:6
- D. Speed downstream increases and danger increase with speed. Hear waterfall, it is already too late
 - 1. With no landmark, drifting unnoticed
 - 2. Farther from Lord, care less about what we do
- E. Dangerous to others: drifting ship hazard to other vessels
 - 1. Drifting parents lose opportunities to teach Eph 6:4
 - 2. Carried about by every wind of doctrine Eph 4:14
- F. It ends in shipwreck Heb 2:1-3

II. SIGNS OF DRIFTING SPIRITUALLY.

- A. Less desire to study God's Word Psa 1:2
 - 1. Bible source of information not found elsewhere Without it can't know our origin, purpose, destiny?
 - 2. Bible tells how saved from sin, its consequences, and how we can live the happiest, most useful lives
 - 3. Sad when one who once gladly gave time to study of God's Word no longer has that interest
- B. Less desire to attend services and to worship God
 - 1. Have attitude of the Psalmist -- Psa 122:1
 - 2. The fact that the gladness, the desire to go, is no longer there is a strong warning that we are drifting
- C. Less interest in teaching others Acts 8:4; 1Thess 1:8
 - 1. When one obeys gospel, he wants to tell world
 - 2. When Christian has no desire to take message of salvation to others, he is drifting

- D. Less time and need for prayer Mk 1:35; 6:46
 - 1. Jesus taught His disciples -- Lk 18:1
 - 2. When Christian prays less, he is drifting more
- E. Greater thrill over worldly honors
 - 1. Parents excited beyond measure over worldly honor but never show such emotion over spiritual matters
 - 2. Family drifts beyond point of no return 1Jhn 2:15-17
- F. Greater enjoyment in worldly pleasures
 - 1. Paul referred to some who were "lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God" 2Tim 3:2-4
 - 2. When more pleasure in worldly activity than meeting to worship God, we definitely are spiritually adrift
- G. Less desire to be with the people of God
 - 1. In evil world Christians need to spend time together to give and receive encouragement. Consider what Jonathan did for David 1Sam 23:16-18
 - 2. We must edify and encourage Rom 14:19; Heb 3:13
 - 3. When Christian prefers companionship of world, rather than Christians, their drifting may have them going over dam to rocks of spiritual destruction

III. REMEDIES FOR DRIFTING

- A. Continue rowing, or keep patiently running Heb 12:1
 - 1. It requires effort to live the Christian life
 - 2. We love ease and course of least resistance Amos 6:1; Rev 3:15-18; 1Cor 15:58
- B. Must guard against temptation -- self is our greatest enemy 1Pet 2:11; Rom 7:18-21,24; 8:2
- C. Go against popularity, peer pressure, praise of men, modernism, skepticism, denominationalism, humanism, false doctrines of all kinds, liberalism, neglect, indifference, apathy. Neglecting Bible study, worship, prayer, visiting, become weaker and weaker
- D. Must not drift with majority, we will be lost Matt. 7:13-14
- E. Must have strong anchorage Heb 6:18-19; Eph 3:16-18; 4:14-15; Col. 2:6-7

CONCLUSION:

- A. As a Christian, am I drifting, headed downstream, Have I forgotten about waterfall ahead?
- B. If so, I need to anchor down. I need to be tied to the rock that cannot be moved
- C. Are we drifting as a church?
 - 1. Have the tides of indifference and neglect swept us away, lost love for truth and slowly drifted into error
 - 2. Let us renew our allegiance and dedication
 - 3. Give the more earnest heed Heb 2:1-3

(By David J. Riggs revised by jlh)

Song # 496 "We Have an Anchor" and "Drifting Along"