

"Lest We Drift Away"

Hebrews 2:1-3

Introduction:

- A. Hebrews were in danger of "*drifting* away" — of *neglecting* their salvation.
 - 1. "Drifting" way from "great salvation" toward Judaism.
 - 2. "Drifting" or flowing with the tide.
 - 3. "Drifting" rather than positive decision to leave truth.
- B. Hebrew letter encourages them to continue in the faith.
 - 1. Reminded of the seriousness of disobedience. (2:2-4; 10:28,29)
 - 2. Reminded to be faithful to the end. (6:9-12;10:35-39)
- C. Hebrew writer points to *two areas* of neglect contributing to their drift.
 - 1. Neglecting the learning process.
 - 2. Neglecting the assembling of themselves together.

Discussion:

I. Neglect Of The Word Contributes To Drifting Away. (5:11-6:6)

- A. Hebrews were drifting backward instead of pressing forward in knowledge.
 - 1. Had drifted into spiritual immaturity.
 - a. Had become dull of hearing. (5:11)
 - b. Had become such as need milk (5:12)
 - c. Had become unskilled in the word. (5:13)
 - 2. Were in danger of drifting into complete apostasy. (6:1-6)
- B. We are either going on to perfection or we are drifting.
 - 1. We must continue to grow in the word. (1 Pet 2:1-2)
 - a. Through individual study.
 - b. Through edification of church. (Eph. 4:11-16).
 - 2. We must use knowledge and skill or we will lose them.
- C. When we neglect and drift we are often pulled in the direction of things that appeal to our fleshly side.
 - 1. Apathy and indifference.
 - 2. Worldliness and immorality.
 - 3. False religions and philosophies.
 - a. Humanism.
 - b. Denominationalism.
 - c. Social gospel.

II. Neglect of Assembling Contributes To Drifting Away. (10:19-31)

- A. Assembling designed to strengthen both knowledge of word and will to do it.
 - 1. By the teaching done in the assembly.
 - 2. By the admonishing done in the assembly.
 - 3. By the worship done together.
 - a. If worshipping God only object of assembly could do it at home.
 - b. Worshipping together edifies by strengthening each other.
- B. Assembling is not an end within itself--but necessary means to end.
 - 1. Illustration of coal of fire taken from fire.
 - 2. Being together with those of like faith strengthens our will to continue.
- C. Assembling must not be forsaken. (10:25).
 - 1. Assembling on first day of week specifically commanded. (1 Cor. 11:19ff; Acts 20:17).
 - 2. Assembling at other times is authorized means to further edify.
 - a. Wednesday nights, gospel meetings and other special services.
 - b. Neglect of these often leads to weakening of knowledge and will
 - c. May not be parallel to assembly commanded for Lord's Supper on first day of week, but still

excellent opportunity for growth and influence.

d. Should not be a matter of *having* to attend, but a matter of *wanting* to.

(1) Does a real sports fan ask how many games do I *have* to attend?

(2) Does are real food lover ask how much do I *have* eat?

(3) Does a real sweetheart ask how often do I *have* go see my sweetie?

D. Assembling discourages apostasy. (10:29-31).

Conclusion:

A. Drifting is so easy.

B. We need all knowledge and encouragement we can get.