The Dangers of Drifting

Heb. 2:1-4

I. Introduction

A. Heb. 2:1, "*Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip.*"

II. Things we should know about drifting

A. Drifting requires absolutely no effort.

1. "*We ought to give the more earnest heed...*" (Heb. 2:1).

B. It is an unconscious process.

C. We never drift upstream or against the tide.

1. Faithfulness to the Lord is like rowing upstream.

a) 2 Pet. 1:5-7, "*And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.*"

2. You must continue to grow.

a) 2 Pet. 3:18, "*But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever.*"

3. The moment you stop growing, you start drifting down stream.

D. The speed downstream increases with the drift.

E. It is dangerous not only to yourselves, but to others as well.

1. Gal. 2:11-13, "*But when Peter was come to Antioch, I withstood him to the face, because he was to be blamed. For before that certain came from James, he did eat with the Gentiles: but when they were come, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing them which were of the circumcision. And the other Jews dissembled likewise with him; insomuch that Barnabas also was carried away with their dissimulation.*"

2. Parents who are just drifting will soon loose golden opportunities to teach their children.

a) Eph. 6:4, "*And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.*"

F. It ends in shipwreck.

1. Heb. 2:1-3, "*Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip. For if the word spoken by angels was stedfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompence of reward; How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him;*"

2. The danger of drifting is real, or there would be no need to warn against it. So again I ask, "Are You Drifting?" To help answer the question, here are some...

III. Common signs of drifting.

A. Diminishing desire to study God's word and pray.

1. Psa. 1:1-3, "*Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.*"

2. Mark 1:35, "*And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed.*"

3. Luke 6:12, "*And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God.*"

4. Luke 18:1, "*And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;*"

5. When the Christian prays less and less, he is drifting more and more!

B. Diminishing desire to be with God's people.

1. Psa. 122:1, "*I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the LORD.*"

2. Rom. 14:19, "*Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another.*"

3. Heb. 3:13, "*But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.*"

4. Eccl. 4:9-12, "*Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour. For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up. Again, if two lie together, then they have heat: but how can one be warm alone? And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken.*"

5. 1 Cor. 15:33, "*Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.*"

C. Diminishing desire to share the gospel.

D. Increasing desire over things of the world.

1. 1 John 2:15-17, "*Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.*"

2. 2 Tim. 3:4, "*Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;*"

3. If we reach the point when we find more pleasure in some worldly activity than meeting with others to worship God, we definitely are spiritually adrift!

We have examined several signs of drifting away from God. Now let's take a look at some…

IV. Remedies against drifting.

A. Keep rowing.

1. 2 Pet. 1:5-10, "*And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:*"

2. 2 Tim. 4:7, "*I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:*"

B. Watch out for undercurrents.

1. 1 Pet. 5:8, "*Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:*"

2. 1 Pet. 5:9, "*Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.*"

C. Expect to go against the tide.

1. Matt. 7:13-14, "*Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.*"

D. We must have a strong anchor…

1. Col. 2:6-7, "*As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.*"

2. Eph. 4:14-15, "*That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:*"

3. Heb. 6:18-19, "*That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us: Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil;*"

4. These verses teach us that if we will remain anchored in Jesus we can know that we possess the unshakable hope of having heaven as our home.

V. Conclusion.

A. Brethren, are we drifting?

B. If we see that we are drifting from the Lord in any one of these, then lets us encourage one another to give earnest heed as warned by the writer to the Hebrews:

1. Heb. 2:1-3, "*Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip. For if the word spoken by angels was stedfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompence of reward; How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him;*"

C. Brethren, our salvation in Christ is simply too great for us to neglect!