

THE DANGER OF DRIFTING

Text: Hebrews 2:1

INTRO: Those who have read of the life and preaching of those in earlier generations may remember the warnings of brother J.D. Tant: "Brethren, we are drifting."

As individuals, as a congregation, and as a brotherhood, one of the greatest present dangers is that of drifting. In this lesson, we will make application to ourselves as individuals.

I. THE WARNING IS NEEDED BY EVERY CHRISTIAN. NO ONE IS IMMUNE TO THE DANGER OF DRIFTING.

- A. Jesus told His apostles: Watch & pray lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak. (Matthew 26:41).
- B. Paul's warning in 1 Cor. 10:12 is to the individual who thinks he stands secure.
- C. Perhaps the best illustration is the case of Simon Peter & his denial of Jesus.

II. WITH THE REALIZATION THAT NONE OF US IS IMMUNE TO THE DANGER OF DRIFTING, LET US LOOK AT SOME SPECIFIC AREAS OF CONCERN.

- A. Forsaking assemblies. READ HEBREWS 10:24-26.
Let us note some other passages that may have bearing on this subject.
 - 1. Therefore, to him who knows to do good & does not do it, to him it is sin. (James 4:17).
 - 2. If you know these things, happy are you if you do them. (JN 13:17)
 - 3. Forsaking assemblies usually paves the way for us to get careless in other areas: language, questionable forms of recreation, etc.

4. On the other hand, forsaking assemblies is sometimes the result of other sins already in control.

B. Lack of personal prayer & Bible study. JAMES 4:2-3.

NOTE: Bible study is God speaking to us. Prayer is us speaking to God. If we do not make use of these blessings, we will gradually drift farther & farther from God.

1. Some people drift away from the Lord as a result of financial problems--or get so caught up in making a living that they ignore their spiritual needs

[In the parable of the sower, Jesus spoke of some who] When they have heard, go out & are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of this life, & bring no fruit to maturity. (Luke 8:14).

2. For everyone who drifts away because of financial difficulties, several probably drift away because of financial prosperity.

[Agur was extremely wise to pray:] Give me neither poverty nor riches--Feed me with the food You prescribe for me; lest I be full & deny You & say, "Who is the Lord?" or lest I be poor & steal & profane the name of my God. (Prov 30:8-9).

C. Improper relationships with other folks sometimes cause us to lose interest and drift away from God.

1. Husband/wife.

2. "Brother"/"Brother" READ MATTHEW 18:15-18.

3. Hidden sin in our lives sometimes becomes a wedge to drive us farther & farther from the Lord--and will always do so unless it is properly confessed & repented of. You may hide sin for a while from others, but you cannot hide it from yourself. If you know you're not a true

Christian, it soon becomes an unbearable
bother to carry out the pretense.

- a. Judas was secretly a thief, JN 12:6. This
greed may well have been the hidden
sin that opened the door to Judas' other
sins.
- b. [The Psalmist said:] If I regard iniquity in
my heart, the Lord will not hear.
(Psalm 66:18).

CONCLUSION: The things we have discussed & perhaps numerous
others, make drifting an ever present danger. The solution is the
same for each of these problems: Remember therefore from what
you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to
you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place--unless you
repent. (Revelation 2:5).

La Porte, TX, August 15, 1982

Exton, PA, October 13, 1985

Liberty Hill, TX, October 12, 1986 (meeting)

Shiloh, Mexia, TX, October 16, 1994

Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, April 30, 2000