

Am I Drifting?

Heb. 2:1-4

Introduction

•"Two young men were fishing above a low dam on a river near their hometown. As they were concentrating on catching fish, they were unaware that they had drifted until they were not far from the water flowing over the dam. When they realized their situation, the current near the dam had become too powerful for them to keep their boat from going over. Below the dam the water was dashing with strong force over great boulders and through crevices in the rocks. Caught by the swirling waters under the rocks, they never came to the surface. After days of relentless searching, the divers finally found one body, and then, two or three days later, the other." (Billy Norris, Gospel Guide)

- A vital exhortation by the Hebrew writer: Heb. 2:1-4
- A vital question each one needs to ask themselves.

Discussion

I. Some Things We Need To Understand About Drifting...

- No effort is necessary. In fact we will begin to drift when we cease activity.
 - The Devil is winning when we become inactive, loose focus, loose sight of where we are.
 - We must remain active. (I Cor. 15:58)
 - We must be on guard. (Heb. 2:1; 3:12)
- It can be an unconscious process.
 - One of the things that makes drifting so insidious.
 - Can happen in other areas.
 - No one wakes up one morning and decides to quit the Lord.
 - Often the undercurrents are unnoticeable from the surface.
 - One may drift into the world, false doctrine, etc. (Rev. 3:1-3)
- We begin to drift when we simply begin to roll with the flow.
 - Faithfulness to the Lord can be likened to rowing upstream.
 - Constant effort, diligence is required:
 - Adding to our faith. (II Pet. 1:5-10)
 - Growing in knowledge. (II Pet. 3:17-18)
 - The point in time that we stop progressing, we begin to start going backward, drifting. (Heb. 5:11-13)
- As we drift, the speed downstream increases:
 - The further and further one drifts from the Lord, the deeper into sin they may sink. (II Sam. 11-12)
 - The more difficult it becomes to care about the precariousness of our spiritual position. (I Tim. 4:1-2)
- It can be deadly to those around about us:
 - A drifting boat becomes a hazard.
 - A drifting Christian becomes a danger to those with whom he has contact:
 - Children, husband, wife (Eph. 6:4; I Pet. 3:1-2)
 - Other brethren (Heb. 10:24-25)
 - Those in the world (Col. 4:5-6)
- Drifting ends in shipwreck, if it is not corrected:
 - 2:3** how will we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was first communicated through the Lord and was confirmed to us by those who heard him,

II. Some Questions I Need To Ask Of Myself...

- Do I have a strong desire to study and increase my knowledge of God's word?
 - II Tim. 2:15
 - I Pet. 2:1-2
 - If I have lost that desire, then I am drifting.
- Do I look forward to spending time with God in prayer every day?
 - Study the prayers of Jesus (Mk. 1:35; Lk. 18:1) and Paul.
 - I Thess. 5:17
 - If that desire has diminished, I'm drifting.

- Do I have a diminishing desire to be with God's people?
 - Is my attitude like that of the Psalmist? (Ps. 122:1)
 - Or am I increasingly unconcerned about the Lord's work, and my part in it? encouraging my brethren, (Heb. 3:13; Eph. 4:15-16)
- Are there times in the past that I have been more zealous in sharing the gospel with other?
 - Jesus mission (Lk. 19:10)
 - Is our mission (Acts 8:4; I Thess. 1:8)
 - If so, what does that say about my spiritual condition?
- Am I increasingly allured by the things of this world?
 - Entertainment, recreation, material things, worldly honor, popularity,
 - Matt. 6:19-20
 - I Jn. 2:15-17
 - Have I become a lover of pleasure more than a lover of God? Then I have drifted.

III. *Some Defenses Against Drifting...*

- Keep rowing.
 - Giving diligence. (II Pet. 1:5ff)
 - Growing. (II Pet. 3:17-18)
 - Laboring. (I Cor. 15:58)
- Keep watching for the undercurrents.
 - The undercurrent of temptation. (I Cor. 10:13)
 - The undercurrent of indifference. (Rev. 3:17-18)
- Keep working against the tide.
 - Many threaten to sweep us away:
 - Popularity, peer pressure, the praise of others
 - Modernism, humanism, denominationalism - false doctrines of all kinds
 - Worldliness in the church - one of the greatest dangers we face.
 - Neglect -- indifference, apathy, lack of interest and concern
- Keep a strong anchor:
 - Rooted and grounded in Christ - Col 2:6-7
 - Minds must be anchored to the truth – Eph. 4:14-15
 - Possessing an unshakable hope - cf. Heb. 6:18-19
 - Rooted and grounded in the love of Christ – Eph. 3:16-19