

DISCUSSION IDEAS
ARE YOU DRIFTING?

HEBREWS 2:1-4

Jan. 25th, 2015

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CONTEXT: The first of five warnings: pay attention – stop drifting!

Remember that the Preacher (*the writer of Hebrews*) wrote to a house church of messianic Jews. Some of them were drifting in their commitment to Christ and others tempted to defect and return to Judaism. He warns them not to drift or defect, but to hold on to the message of the exalted Son.

Hebrews 2:1 starts with "Therefore", or "For this reason". For what reason?

We need to keep the context in sight, so let's find out by re-reading all of chapter 1 through 2:4.

♦ **DISCUSSION POINT ONE: TO WHOM IS THE WARNING?**

Look at Hebrews 2:1 – *Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it.*

Who are the "we", believers or non-believers?

Briefly look at the following verses:

Hebrews 3:1 – Who is addresses here?

Hebrews 3:6 – Who are the "we" in this case?

Hebrews 3:12-14 – Who is the preacher talking to?

What does v. 14 make clear about the readers?

Hebrews 5:11-14 – What does this say about "You ought to be.....", to be what?

Hebrews 6:9-12 – What is the over-all picture of the readers here?

Think for a minute about the difference between salvation and endurance. Remember, these folks were tempted to give-up and drift back to their old familiar background. If you were going to encourage someone like that, how would you put it?

♦ **DISCUSSION POINT TWO: WHAT DOES Heb. 2:2 MEAN BY "DRIFT AWAY"?**

To what do they need to "pay much closer attention"?

To answer that, think about – what does it mean to "drift"?

Newly saved people are frequently excited, right? What changes that?

How does the very business of living in the world affect our focus?

What happens to our care about God and our obedience to God when our focus on Jesus drifts?

I am sure everyone knows this one: What can I do to help me keep focused on Jesus?

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♦ **DISCUSSION POINT THREE: WHAT DANGER IS THERE IN DRIFTING?**

Look at Heb. 2:2-3a.

What measure of reliability was mentioned?

Remember what message was given through angels? (See Acts 7:38 & 53, and Galatians 3:19.)

What does Old Testament history show about God meaning what He said? (There are examples in Leviticus 10:1-3, Numbers 25:1-9 and 2 Samuel 6:5-11.)

"...how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation?"

What made this message more important than the previous one?

Does God punish disobedient "children"?

Check out 2 Sam. 7:14-15 (about David, but instructive just the same), Prov. 3:12, Heb. 12:5-11, and Rev. 3:19-21.

Look at the events of Acts 5:1-11, 1 Cor. 11:17-34 and the statement in 1 John 5:16-17.

What do these say about God's love?

In Heb. 2:3b, how do we know that the message we have heard is really from Jesus? Compare Acts 2:42-43, 4:33, and 5:12.

♦ **REFLECTION: DO WE TEND TO DRIFT TODAY?**

How can we keep ourselves from drifting?

What can we do to remain aware?

NOTE: I am a former airline pilot. That job entailed a LOT of complex actions, and it was very easy to miss something. What was missed could be critical (and my memory is atrocious).

SO, WE USED CHECKLISTS!

HERE IS A CHECKLIST THAT SHOULD BE HIGHLY USEFUL TO DETECT DRIFTING:

1. My sense of wonder begins to wane.
2. My awareness of the nearness of God has become ancient history.
3. My love and desire for God's Word falls short of what I find in Psalm 119.
4. The realities of heaven and hell seem distant and unreal.
5. I fall apart at the first sign of suffering or persecution.

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- 6. I am unaware of the constant, downward pull of the world, the flesh, and the devil.**
- 7. Prayer, Bible study, witnessing, and going to church are a duty, rather than a delight.**
- 8. The Lord's Table is dull, and preaching is boring.**
- 9. Remembering the work of Jesus Christ on the cross does not emotionally move me.**
- 10. I become autonomous, rather than deeply dependent upon other believers.**
- 11. Theology ceases to be important to me, or (worse yet) when it is just an intellectual exercise.**
- 12. My theology is derived more from the fiction section of the library than from the Bible, good commentaries, or books on theology.**
- 13. I lack joy and gratitude for all God has done for me.**
- 14. I have ceased growing in faith, hope, and love.**
- 15. I'm looking for something "more" outside Scripture, and outside of Christ.¹**

¹ bible.org, *A Word of Warning and Exhortation*, Bob Deffinbaugh (Hebrews 2:1-4)