



"LEST WE DRIFT AWAY" (2)

"Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away" (Heb. 2:1).



Remaining moored in Hebrews 2:1, we ask, "What are some real factors that affect the Christian in drifting from his hope and hold on eternal life?" What are some undercurrents which can be particularly dangerous for the Christian in drifting away from God?

- **Heedlessness (Heb. 2:1).** That this is an immediate and fundamental threat is seen by our text. Because we must "give the more earnest heed" in order to not drift, it necessarily implies that thoughtlessness lends to an unanchored course. The word "heed," in our text, means to turn the mind to or bring near, like that of bringing a ship near to land or to dock. A negligent and inattentive mind would be as foolish docking a ship as absentmindedness is when reading and studying the Scriptures. We are not to read only, but to "read" and "heed."

"If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear.' Then He said to them, 'Take heed what you hear. With the same measure you use, it will be measured to you; and to you who hear, more will be given'" (Mk. 4:23, 24).

As *heedlessness* yields to *drifting*, so in parallel thought, *inattention* of instruction yields to *straying* from knowledge. "Cease listening to instruction, my son, And you will stray from the words of knowledge" (Prov. 19:27). Yet, with mindful regard comes the sure fruit of growth (1 Pet. 2:2).

- **Dull familiarity (Rev. 2:4, 5).** The Ephesians had their *first love* and therefore their *first works*. If our worship and service becomes monotonous and seemingly empty, it is likely that we have lost the "fresh" quality of investigating God's word. Only in diligent study and obedience can we continue to see the deeper and meatier things in God's word. Only with fervent desire and humble application of the Scriptures will the manifold wisdom of God continue to be impressive to us. As we learn of the dryness and despair of the wasteland of sin and of those who delight in it, we all the more yearn for the refreshing water of the living God.

"As the deer pants for the water brooks, So pants my soul for You, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God?" (Ps. 42:1, 2).

Next week we will continue to anchor our attention to Hebrews 2:1 and identify some more currents which, if allowed, will gently drive us away from the grace of God. In the meantime, are you and I giving *the more earnest heed to things we have heard?*

—Steven J. Wallace

