

THE DANGER OF DRIFTING

Hebrews 2:1-18

INTRODUCTION:

Our eyes were fixed upon the effulgence of God's Glory in Chapter One declaring in every way the son is Superior to the Angels.

With this knowledge we must now receive a warning about any neglect of the Great Salvation!

On my visit to Alaska, I heard service men talk about the DEW line. The Distant Early Warning system. Designed to warn American citizens in case an enemy launched a missile attack. At that time the DEW line was composed of 68 radar stations, constructed at a cost of 6 hundred million dollars, stretching from Alaska across Canada. This system is further extended into the Pacific and Atlantic by one third of our strategic air command (SAC) force which is in the air at all times. With this tremendous network of radar scopes and electric warning devices in case of attack we will receive a 15 to 25 minute warning.

DEW line reminds us of this distant warning in God's Word. This warning is well in advance to all who neglect this Great Salvation.

Time after time - Book of Hebrews sounds warnings.

V.1
I. EXHORTATION NOT TO DRIFT - V. 1

Earnest - Heed - Means to tie your boat to the dock or shore.

Let them slip - Meant to drift past the Harbor, to glide aside, to be flowed by.

If you fail to secure your ship firmly it will drift away and make ship wreck.

The river of God's redemptive purpose as revealed in Jesus Christ (flows on.)
Some Christians in name merely put their feet in the water at its edge.

Salvation is looked upon as a Great Harbour. There is wild, dashing clouds of spray, tossing, churning, winds howling against the ship.

Put the ship in the safety of the Harbour and the waters are unstirred, a refuge, emblem of Salvation.

God in former days spoke in various ways, but now through his son - Heed his message. (Don't let the truth slip by.)

Limp fingers are inadequate to hold a priceless treasure. A careless person may let slip an expensive piece of China. Without alertness and conscious effort we let slip - drift away from us.

A boat at anchor - tied to a rope carelessly, loosely - strong current quietly moves the boat down stream - victim of the currents. God offers something secure and we drift aimlessly.

Exhortation is giving diligent attention to the Gospel of Christ.

Listen to the instructions, men are (prone to neglect)

Nothing is so little regarded by you!

1. Scientific subjects you devour
2. Fiction and romance you are eager for
3. Literary lectures you throng to hear
4. Theatres you go by multitudes

5. Messages of God you leave as far from church as you can, not even with the text in mind

or the leading thought.

Exhortation is more earnest heed to sacred things.

V. 2 - 4
II. HOW SHALL WE ESCAPE IF WE DRIFT? - V. 2-4

V. (2) - The message brought before Jesus was true Every message brought by the angels was true. Stephen reminded them in Acts 7:53 - "The law received by the angels was true and they kept it not."

2 Kinds of Sin: Transgressions and disobedience are going to be punished.

Transgression / - means stepping across the line.

Disobedience / means imperfect hearing, careless hearing, unwilling to hear God's commands.

Every transgression willfully committed - just punishment.

The fact Jesus came will not save us unless we heed - "Ho everyone that thirsteth, come ye". We die unless we heed.

If transgressions and disobedience received punishment in the Old Testament - punishment will be more complete under the Gospel of the Son of God.

It is the drift that ruins men.

Young men - pious home - I renounce my Father God, get new set of associates who have no religion. Relaxes his efforts, and drifts.

Business man - once upright - pressure and wrong associates capture him.

Person - not give up Bible and pray, one leap.

Do things of God loom more clearly on your vision?

Children hear instructions of their parents and say old fashion and drift by.

V. 3) - The unanswerable question How?

Sailor refuses the life boat.

Did the Isrealite escape who refused to sprinkle the blood on the doorposts of his house?

Did Moses and Aaron escape, though they were leaders of the people.

No, none of these escaped - every transgression and disobedience received its just recompense of reward.

How then shall we escape?

If you neglect the only name given under heaven among men by which we can be saved.

Note - To neglect is to reject.

What must I do to be lost? - Nothing!

Just neglect Salvation and Hell is certain.

What must I do to lose the effectiveness of my life - nothing.

The action word throw away or discard is not used. It is simple inaction he warns. Emphasis is on the value which we put on the Word of God.

Satan has neglect methods for a housewife - put off praying until the dusting and dishes are done. Then prayer is drab duty.

A man puts off until the days work is over and no convenient time for prayer.

Current pulls our souls - old age has its temptations.

Satan knows our weakness.

Esau forfeited a lifetime of satisfaction by neglect.

Superior greatness of this Salvation. Great expense to provide it. Permanent work. Magnitude of it estimated by the blessed results. Instantaneous, continuing, ultimate.

Salvation is a great word - a key word of Hebrews.

1:14 - Heirs of Salvation.

6:19 - Things that accompany Salvation.

2:3 - Great Salvation

7:25 - Salvation to uttermost

2:10 - Captain of Salvation

9:28 - Without sin unto Salvation

How? - Had time--Opportunity--The call has been given urgently.

Neglecting - not slightest hope of escape. Hopeless, of your condition.

However, upright in eyes of world, if remain indifferent to claims of so Great Salvation, seal your everlasting doom. No necessary for you to be a giant in wickedness in order to be danned - simple - neglect, will do it.

This bars us from Heaven - we have not given heed to the things which we have heard.

Fill Hell with victims.

Neglect no longer so Great Salvation you have already neglected long enough.
The extremity of your case demands immediate action.

V. 4 God made this clear with signs, miracles, and Holy Spirit.

N III. WHAT IS THE ANSWER TO DRIFTING - V. 5-18

It is bound up in the Captain of your Salvation expressed in V. 10.

V. 5 Bible is majestic - Angels were not in command of the world of salvation
or the world to come.

Reminder of superiority of Jesus.

World to come - Habitable earth - Matt. 24:14. The angels as high as their
place was they were put under Christ.

V. 6-8a - Quote Psa. 8 - Jesus in human body.

Man is not what he was meant to be - newspaper reveals weaknesses, faults,
fears of man.

Jan. 1967 - Apollo spacecraft caught fire on the ground, killed 3 astronauts.

Tragedy caused by poor workmanship and carelessness on the part of others.

Cross and death of Christ horrible sight - it for your sin.

V. (6) What is man? 4 times in Psa. CXLIV. 3

Job 7:17-20, Ps. 8:4, Heb. 2:6.

God made him - is mindful of man.

V. (8) Man is stained.

V. (9) But we see Jesus - Behold him. Son of God. That makes the difference.

Tasted Death - to fullest depth.

V. (10) (Perfect through suffering) - relation to sufferings of Old Sacrifices.

(Captain) - Chief - Prince - Leader - Author.

Heb. 12:2.

(Leader) - Goes before - whole work of Salvation committed to son of God.

As Moses - a captain for an exodus.

A perfect - tasted death - tempted - wept - suffered.

Without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sin.

As our Captain He: -

1. Sanctifies - V. 11.

Sets apart in relation to the guilt of our sin.

Not ashamed to (call them Brethern)

Results of his suffering - Psa. 22:1-21.

Note - (We) are never to call him Brother.

John 13:13 - We are to call him Master and Lord for so he is.

When you are Sanctified, all are one for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren.

Christ was a man and they did not deny it.

as Captain,

2. Breaks Satan's Power - V. 12-15

V. 12 - When sanctified they can praise God together.

This verse is a quote of Psa. 22:22 - "I will declare thy name unto my brethren; in the midst of the congregation will I praise Thee."

The only variation is the substitution of the word "church" for "congregation". Both have same meaning - called out ones, assembly - Greek word Ekkleesia - to show that of old, the Messiah would suffer and there would be his called out Brethren.

V. 13 - I will put my trust in Him, is a citation from Isaiah 8:17.

The Scripture of Hebrews thus far has declared the sufferings would take place, now he proves the necessity for it.

V. 14 - We are told that inasmuch the children of faith are human beings, not angels, as the writer tells us in V. 16.

So in order that He might be the (true Kinsman) - Redeemer, He in infinite grace became man and thus took part of the same human nature.

Holy Spirit guarded him he was not defiled. He took part, participated in, but the fallen nature was not His.

Death could have no power over him except He might submit himself voluntarily to it and this he did in obedience to His Father's will.

He must be the unblemished one - man though sinless Satan is conquered.

V. (15) - Satan had caused man to sin in the first place. The wages of sin is death.

By death He might destroy the Devil - liberate.

Devil tried to destroy Him - Mother travel 90 miles just before birth - By hand of Herod - Seduce by temptations.

Adam yielded and died.

Jesus resisted and conquered death forever.

You say people still die - He destroyed the principle of sin, which is the cause of the sting of death.

It is like the care of polio - we have it - but everyone is not cured - the end of the dread epidemic is in sight. Jesus put an end to effect of death in his resurrection.

our captain

3. Takes Our Cause In His Hands - V. 16

(For verily He took on Him not the nature of angels; but He took on Him the seed of Abraham.)

He took - literally - to lay hold of or take hold of as with the hands and has the sense of undertaking a cause or helping.

It is not with angels he is concerned - But He is concerned with the descendants

of Abraham.

"For verily not to angels does he give help,
But giveth help to the Sons of Abraham."

Point is the Son has taken in his own hands the cause of men and not of
angels - the seed of Abraham needed help.

Two things:

First - His primary cause was redemption. Wrought at Calvary - but His help is constant help; it does not cease with Salvation from the penalty of past sins, but goes on for his own now and evermore, today giving power over todays temptations, tomorrow taking His own into Glory and presenting them faultless before the presence of God.

Second - It is the seed of Abraham whom He is said to lay hold of, to assist.

This is Abraham's spiritual seed - not all decendants. John 8:39,40.

Angels not the object.

Seed of Abraham are.

Our Captain

4. Busy Today In Our Behalf - V. 17

The Salvation He wrought for us, He ministers to us at the right hand of God.

We have a High Priest who has passed through the Heavens.

He was here!

He is there - more than shadow.

Reconciliation: Sin is atoned, expiated or propitiated.

Means to make expiation for the sins of the people.

Our Captain

5. Understands Our Temptations - V. 18

We are driven hither and thither entirely at the mercy of the storm.

Jesus having a nature like ours, passed through worlds fiery ordeal and worlds woes.

One who has been afflicted is better able to sympathize with the suffering.

Not a pain but what Jesus helps us bear it.

Able to succor - Look not to common man for help - they fail you.

Go then to Him, go daily casting all your cares upon him; for he careth for you.

What temptations did He share - loneliness, misunderstood, disbelieved, despised, rejected, sorrows, grief, and temptation to follow his own will, to live independent of the Father, to see the crown apart from the cross. Matt. 4:1-10.

Come ye disconsolate where ever ye languish,
 Come to the mercy-seat, fervently kneel,
 Here bring your wounded hearts - here tell your anguish,
 Earth has no sorrows that Heaven cannot heal.
 Here see the bread of life; see water flowing.
 Forth from the throne of God, boundless in love,

Come to the feast prepared; come ever knowing
Earth has its sorrows but Heaven can remove."

Con. (Danger of drifting) by this great Salvation - Don't let it slip - V. 1.

el
(Dr. Head) Pres. So. W. S. - Class - The guide in Asylum showing him and group
institution.

Corridor - patient shreek - "We let her slip. We let her slip". Cry of one
in padded cell.

Guide - like know what this pitiful cry means. Patient is a mother - here
several years. From best family in South. Accustomed to plenty - husband wealthy.
They kept social rounds of society. One daughter.

Revival meeting - some friends of ^{her} girl professed Salvation and were convicted.
The girl was moved but made no decision.

Pastor called - interest spiritual condition of girl. (He said there was danger
of letting her slip) Mother said she knew her business and dismissed him.

Later girl did slip, ruined, shamefully. Hide shame, ran away.

Pastor - comfort parents, he remarked it is too bad we let her slip.

Mother put her hands to head, clinched fist and shrieked, "we let her slip, we
let her slip, and for 15 years now she has kept up this pitiful soliloquy you now
hear."

Val

v. 1 - Therefore give the more earnest heed to the things heard last.