

Knowing and Growing in Christ
Hebrews 2:2-4 (Week 04) 02/11/2024
Don't Drift Away! (Part II)

This is my message written prior to being preached. Please excuse the bullet point format and any grammatical mistakes. This is meant to be spoken.

¹ Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. ² For since the message declared by angels proved to be reliable, and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, ³ how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard, ⁴ while God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will. (Hebrews 2:1-4)

Introduction & Review

- Thanks _____ for reading our **text for today**.
- Last week we focused on **verse 1 of Hebrews Chapter 2**.
- And this week we'll look at **verses 2-4** as we come to the second part of the message titled "**Don't Drift Away**"
- Now before we get to our text, let me remind you that one of **the author's** main goals throughout this letter is to warn, encourage and strengthen his readers (**1st Century Hebrew Christians**) so they would not reject their faith in Jesus Christ and return to **Judaism**.
- And in **Chapter 1** he did this by proclaiming the Superiority of Jesus Christ over all things including Old Testament the Prophets and Angels.
- Then in **Chapter 2** he addresses the problem directly.
- Let me **review** what we looked at last week in **verse 1**, **first we saw...**

1. The Risk of Drifting Away

- **Verse 1...**

¹ Therefore

- Therefore, because of what we saw in **Chapter 1**.
- Because of **Christ's Superiority** over the prophets, the angels, and all things.

¹ Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. (Hebrews 2:1)

- The author's concern is **the risk of drifting away** from what we have heard.
- And what they (and we) have heard is **the word of God**, the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- **So**, the danger is drifting away from the **true gospel** and therefore **from the subject** of the **gospel** Jesus Christ.

- **Now let me remind you of what it means to drift away.**
- The Greek word translated “**drift away**” is a nautical term, *para-rreō*,
- It **describes** a ship at sea that’s **drifted off course**,
- Or a ship in the **dock** that slips its moorings and gradually drifts out to sea.
- *Para-rreo* is also used figuratively to describe **something that slips from our minds**.
- So, it seems the author is saying that there are **currents** seeking to pull us away from **the gospel of Jesus Christ**.
- That we are at risk of drifting **into a lesser gospel**, and a **lesser Jesus**.
- And so, along with the risk we are also given...

2. The Remedy for Drifting Away

¹ Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. (Hebrews 2:1)

- The remedy against drifting away from what you have heard (**the gospel, the word of God**) is to **pay much closer attention to it**.
- And let me remind you of what it means to **pay attention**.
- **The Greek word translated “pay attention” is *pro-se-chō*,**
- and like *para-rio* (drift away) it has **nautical implications**.
- It was used for **holding a course** or **securing an anchor**.
- To **avoid drifting off course** you must hold the wheel of the ship steady.
- And/or - to avoid **slipping out with the current** you must **drop the anchor**.
- **So**, when the author says to **pay attention**, he’s not just talking about a **mental exercise**,
- He’s also directing his readers to **act based on what they are paying attention to**.
- Drifting away happens on its own without much effort on our part,
- but paying attention, **staying on course**, is quite the opposite.
- **It requires hard work!**
- It requires **us to paddle against the current** of a world that is seeking to drag us away from the gospel.
- **Therefore, we must pay attention, We must...**

¹² Fight the good fight of the faith... (1 Timothy 6:12)

- **We must** stay the course; drop our anchor and remain steadfast.
- We must concentrate **on and live based on the word of God**.
- **This is the remedy for not drifting away**.
- So, in the first verse of **Hebrews Chapter 2**, we saw the **risk of and remedy to** drifting away from the **Gospel of Jesus Christ**.

- But the author isn't finished!
- He knows that the current is strong,
- and to fight against it **his readers** need **encouragement**.
- And so, in the next **three verses** he gives two **oars of encouragement**.
- **Two oars** that will help us pay attention and paddle against the currents of this world.
- **The first oar is a warning against...**

3. The Results of Drifting Away

- Beginning in **verse 2** we read...

² For since the message declared by angels proved to be reliable, and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, ³ how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation?... (Hebrews 2:2-3)

- Jewish tradition says that the **Mosaic Law** was declared by angels.
- This comes from **Deuteronomy 33:2** which we will not look at, but I included in your notes.
- The point for us is, the message declared by angels refers to **the Mosaic Law or the Old Covenant**.
- And what the author is doing here is arguing from the **lesser to the greater**.
- Knowing that his **fellow Jewish Christians** are in danger of drifting away,
- He points out that the Mosaic Law, **the old covenant** was reliable (valid and binding).
- And that every transgression or disobedience (violation of the Law) received a just **retribution**.
- **Put simply, those who violated the Old Testament Law, which was spoken by angels, were punished!**
- Then the writer rhetorically asks,

³ how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation?

- If those who violated the **lesser Mosaic Law, declared by angels**, were justly punished?
- How shall we escape **even greater punishment** if we neglect (drift away from) such a **great salvation which was spoken and provided by God's Son?**
- And the answer is **we will not escape**.
- For those who neglect such a great salvation, the result will be **great retribution**.
- And really, this makes perfect sense.
- **Just think about what's involved in such a great salvation.**
- First, it originated in the **love of God**.
- **For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son.**
- And it **culminated** in the **sacrificial death of that Son, Jesus Christ**. Peter writes...

²⁴ He himself (Jesus) bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. (1 Peter 2:24)

- Jesus gave his life, took on our sin, that we might receive a **great salvation**.

- And just ponder some of the **great benefits** for those who receive this great salvation.
- We're forgiven, accepted, protected, strengthened, and guided by Almighty God.
- We receive **the righteousness of Christ**.

- And because of that **we escape the wrath of God**.
- We enter into a loving family relationship with Him.
- We become children of God with free access to His throne. We can draw near to God.
- We received the gift of the indwelling Holy Spirit.
- We are joint heirs with Jesus to all things.
- We will spend eternity in the presence of God, about which David writes...

¹¹ ...in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore. (Psalms 16:11)

- **And I could go on...**
- What we receive from God through his Son Jesus Christ who gave his life that we might live,
- is **unquestionably a great salvation**.
- And so, I hope you see that to neglect it, to drift away from it, **is height of evil**.
- Maybe a lesser example will help **drive this home**.
- Suppose you had a major debt that you could not pay,
- You come to the end of your rope and decide the only thing to do is rob a bank.
- But of course, you're caught in the act, taken to court, tried, and convicted.
- And when it comes time for your sentence, **you throw yourself on the mercy of the court**.
- The judge responds by giving you **a suspended sentence**.
- No jail time, and then **he pulls out his checkbook**.
- and writes you a check for the full amount of money you owe.
- **What would you do?**
- What if you said to the judge, something like, "*who do you think you are, some rich do gooder,*
- *I'll take your money but don't expect me to be grateful, I work hard and I deserve everything I get.*"
- And with that you turn and walk (drift) out of the courtroom.
- How evil, wicked, ungrateful, perverted would you have to be to do such a thing in the face of such tremendous mercy.
- Now magnify that 1,000s of times and you might understand the evil of neglecting such a great salvation.
- Evil that will result in unescapable great retribution.
- How great?
- Well, in **Chapter 10**, we find a similar, but more detailed warning.

²⁸ Anyone who has set aside the law of Moses dies without mercy on the evidence of two or three witnesses. ²⁹ How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace? ³⁰ For we know him who said, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay." And again, "The Lord will judge his people." ³¹ It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. (Hebrews 10:28-31)

- From this we discover that those who violated the law of **Moses died without mercy.**
- And for those who **reject Christ, the punishment will be worse.**
- It will involve **vengeance and the Judgement of the Lord.**
- Therefore, be warned, the result of neglecting (drifting away from) such a great salvation is a fearful thing.
- **Heed this warning** and don't drift away from, don't neglect such a great salvation.
- Instead pay much closer attention to the message you have heard.
- Pay attention, believe, understand, and live your life based on the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- Live a life **worthy of the great salvation you have received.**
- So, we've been told the risk of and remedy for not drifting away – pay much closer attention to what you have heard.
- And we've been given, in the form of a warning, one **oar of encouragement** to help us paddled against the current of this world.
- But we need another oar, lest we find ourselves in terror paddling in circles.
- So along with the tragic results of drifting away, **we are given...**

4. The Reason for NOT Drifting Away

- Speaking of **this great salvation (the gospel of Jesus Christ)**, the author says...

³ ... It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard, ⁴ while God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will. (Hebrews 2:3-4)

- The reason for not drifting away from the message of great salvation is this.
- **It would** go against the clear evidence for **its truth.**
- **And the author** gives **three witnesses** to the truth of **this message!**

A. Witness One: The Lord Jesus

³ ... It was declared at first by the Lord,

- **The Gospel of Jesus Christ** is not some **man-made philosophy.**
- Rather, it's a **message** that **comes** directly from God's own Son,
- It is the word of Christ.
- We saw this in **the first verses of this letter:**

¹ Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, ² but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, (Hebrews 1:1-2)

- This message from God must not be neglected because it was **spoken** by His Son.
- **Jesus** declared a **great salvation** in which he gave himself as a **great sacrifice** which provides, to those who trust in him, **great benefits.**

- Now, how do we know this message of great salvation came directly from the Lord?
- **Well, we could turn to the** historical evidence regarding the life and teachings of Jesus.
- But I think the greatest proof that this message came directly from the LORD,
- Proof that it is divine in origin, **is its total uniqueness**, from all other “gospel” messages.
- In **every other religion in human history**.
- Including pagan religions, tribal religions, Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam and even Judaism (when not understood properly).
- At the heart of the religion, **for a person to receive the benefits their God/Gods offer**,
- They must work, they must do something to **earn these benefits**.
- If they want a good harvest, or rain, or financial success, or a good spouse...
- And ultimately, if they must earn their salvation,
- They must work to secure a place in heaven, nirvana, paradise.
- They must follow the rules, obey the commands, do the rituals of their religion.
- **For example:** In **Buddhist Thailand** there's saying, **Tam boon Tam bap**.
- Which roughly translated means: **if you sin you must do good works to make up for it**.
- The idea is that ***your good works must outweigh or at least be balance out your sin***.
- And if you can, after many **reincarnations**, get to a point where your good works overcome your bad and you **reach enlightenment**,
- Then you will **escape the suffering of this world** and enter Nirvana. (or nothingness).
- This is just one example,
- Every religion has different rules and rituals to follow,
- different ideas about life after death.
- But they all boil down to **what you must do** to end up where you want after you die.
- **Now in great contrast to this, Jesus said...**

24 Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. (John 5:24)

- What did Jesus say you must do to receive God's favor and therefore eternal life?
- No works, no good deeds, no rituals, simply believe, have faith.
- And as we saw last week, **Paul expanded on what Jesus said when he wrote....**

8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast. (Ephesians 2:8-9)

- This is the **heart of the message of great salvation** declared in the New Testament.
- And it's **the opposite** of what **every other religion has taught throughout human history**.
- Salvation, eternal life, is not and cannot be earned.
- It's a free gift given to those who put their faith in Jesus Christ.
- And notice, Paul says that even the faith they put in Jesus is a gift from Jesus.
- The gospel says, **salvation is not of our own doing, we cannot earn it with good works**.

- Now, let me say this for clarity.
- As we saw last week, in the next verse Paul tells us that good works are essential,
- not to our initial salvation but to our life of faith.
- When we are saved, we are also transformed,
- we receive the Holy Spirit, and we can then walk in the good works that God has prepared for us.
- So, what Jesus did was flip **every man-made religion every so-called gospel** on its head.
- They all said, and continue to say, you must do good works to be saved.
- And Jesus said, **you are saved by grace through faith to do good works.**
- And to me this says that beyond a doubt,
- The gospel of Jesus Christ, the message of great salvation, did not originate with man,
- But ***was declared at first by the Lord!***
- So the first witness to the truth of the message of great salvation is the LORD JESUS
- And the second witness is...

B. Witness Two: The Apostles

- Not only did it come directly from the LORD, but...

it was attested to us by those who heard, (Hebrews 2:3)

- This is speaking of those **who heard the message** directly from Jesus.
- **Specifically, the Apostles.**
- One of the greatest proofs that attests to the **divine origin** of the gospel is the witness of the apostles.
- These men knew for sure whether or not **the gospel** was true.
- Peter and John, for instance, were at the **open tomb** on the morning of the **resurrection**.
- They knew whether or not Jesus was really raised from the dead.
- And if you read the New Testament, especially the book of Acts.
- You'll find that at the heart of the Apostle's gospel message was a resurrected JESUS.
- To the Apostles, Jesus was not a fallen martyr to remember and emulate.
- He was the resurrected ever-present Lord of Glory.
- He was not a story to reflect on,
- He was the LIVING SAVIOR to be Trusted, Obeyed, Honored and Worshiped.
- In Peter's **first Sermon**, recorded in **Acts 2** we read...

²² "Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know—²³ this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. ²⁴ God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it. (Acts 2:22-24)

- The Apostles were eyewitness to the life, ministry, death, and resurrection of the Lord.
- Therefore, they knew what was true and what was false, regarding Jesus.
- And they **attested to the truth of the gospel, the message of a great salvation declared first by the LORD.**
- Now some might say these men **invented the resurrection** (and maybe some other things).
- Because they needed Jesus to be alive so they could continue gathering followers, gaining power, starting their own religion.
- The basic idea is they invented the resurrection for their own benefit.
- But if you look at the historical evidence, **this is an extremely hard pill to swallow.**
- Because both Scripture and history tell us that from an earthly perspective,
- the Apostles gained nothing.
- Well, they did gain lives of persecution, poverty, and trials.
- But other than that, they received no earthly benefits **from holding to and proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ.**
- We see this clearly in **Acts 5**
- After being threatened and then beaten by the Sanhedrin for teaching the good news of Jesus Christ.
- **Acts 5:41** tells us,

⁴¹ Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name (Acts 5:41)

- So, after receiving the benefit of threats and a beating they rejoice in their suffering.
- Let me ask you this?
- Would you (or anyone) rejoice over threats and beatings because of their message,
- When they knew their message was a lie.
- I think not!
- The Apostle (who would know) certainly believed the message of the gospel.
- And they believed it unto death.
- History records that eventually, all the original apostles **except John, were martyred.**
- **They all went to their death** attesting to the message of great salvation that Jesus declared.
- So, the surety and endurance of the apostles' faith is **definite evidence of the divine origin and truth of the gospel message.**
- It was first declared by the Lord and then it was **attested to by the Apostles.**
- And there is one more witness,

C. Witness Three: God

- In **verse 4** we read...

⁴ while God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will. (Hebrews 2:4)

- **The Grammar indicates that this is speaking about the Apostles.**
- God through, signs, wonders, various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, bore witness to the truth of the Gospel through the Apostles.
- But it's also true of Jesus.
- As we just read in the **book of Acts**.

22 ...Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst... (Acts 2:22)

- God attested to the truth of Jesus' message with mighty works and wonders and signs.
- Healing the sick and lame and blind, casting out demons, feeding thousands with little food, and even raising the dead.
- By these and other miraculous signs God attested to Jesus of Nazareth.
- **And God did the same through the Apostles.**
- As these men, who'd been appointed by Jesus to take the gospel to the world,
- As they began their ministry, the book of Acts records that God gave them gifts of the Holy Spirit and through them, **performed signs and wonders and various miracles.**
- Including healing the sick and lame, casting out demons,
- and at least once raising the dead, **when in Acts 9 Peter restored a woman named Dorcas to life.**
- **So, the Author of Hebrews is saying...**
- You've all heard about (or maybe even seen) the miracles performed by the Apostles.
- But only God can do the miraculous.
- Therefore, these miracles show that God is with these men.
- That God is bearing witness to the truth of their message of great salvation.
- So don't neglect this message, don't drift away from this message because **it is True.**
- Its truth is testified to by **three witnesses**, The Lord Jesus, The Apostles, and God himself.
- And that's **the point the author of Hebrews is making?**
- **But, let me make a side point about miracles and spiritual gifts that this passage addresses.**
- I do this because in the church today, when it comes to **certain spiritual gifts** and especially the miraculous, things can sometimes be a bit controversial.
- Now it's not controversial (in the church at least) whether God can and does do the miraculous.
- That is a given to those who know, understand, and believe the Bible.
- From the first verse, ***in the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.***
- The Bible reveals a **God who is above the natural**, who does the supernatural, miraculous.
- The problem comes when we talk about God performing Miracles through specific individuals.
- People often ask, why don't we see miracles in our day, **like the ones recorded in the Bible.**
- Why don't we see people healing the sick, curing the lame, causing the blind to see?
- Why no more raising people from the dead?

- And one common answer is, **because we don't have enough faith?**
- If we had more faith, like they did in the Bible, then God could do more miraculous stuff in and through our lives.
- Well, first I want you to notice that **Hebrews 2:4** says these signs and wonders and miracles and gifts of the Holy Spirit

were distributed (given and took place) *according to the will of God.*

- And what that says to me is that if it is God's will to accomplish the miraculous through and individual, **God will accomplish the Miraculous through that individual.**
- So rather than **blame lack of faith for the lack of Miracles,**
- we might want to **consider that it's just possible that God is actually in control,**
- and that he might **have reasons** for not doing **the miraculous through individuals,**
- at least in the same way he did through **Jesus and the Apostles.**
- And what could God's reason be?
- Well, I think the answer is found in both **Acts 2:22 and Hebrews 2:4** (and other places)
- There we see that the **purpose of both the miracles of Jesus and the Apostles,**
- **was for God to bear witness to the message** they were preaching. (the Gospel message).
- The miracles testified to **both the truth of the message,**
- **and the authority of the miracle worker to proclaim the message.**
- We find this as well in the **Old Testament.**
- **In the 39 books of the OT,**
- the miracles performed by God through individuals are fairly rare events.
- God did Miracles through **Moses, Joshua, Samuel, Elijah and Elisha.**
- And if you count dream interpretation you can add **Jospeh and Daniel.**
- And the thing to notice in each Old Testament case is the same thing we find in the New Testament with Jesus and the Apostles.
- The miracles God did through Moses were to attest to his message of **deliverance and his authority as the law giver and leader of Israel.**
- And when that authority passed to **Joshua God attested** to his leadership through several signs and wonders.
- And the same is **true of the rest.**
- It's also interesting to note that there are no recorded miracles performed through other prominent men of the Bible.
- From **Noah to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob to Job to Aaron to David and Solomon to Isaiah, Ezekiel, Jeremiah** and all the rest except those mentioned already.
- **My point is,** that in both the **Old and New Testaments** miracles that God did through individuals were specifically meant **to attested to the message and authority of that individual.**
- That's what we read in Acts about Jesus and that's what we read in **Hebrews about the Apostles.**

- ***God also bore witness (to the great message of salvation) by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.***
- Now you might be thinking because I have, when we share the gospel with someone.
- Why doesn't God bear witness to our message and authority through miracles.
- I mean, people would certainly have to believe what I say if I could whip up a few good healings.
- I mean if I could raise someone from the dead revival would certainly break out!
- Well, that may or may not be the case, plenty of people saw Jesus and the Apostles do miracles who did not believe.
- But whether they would believe the message of great salvation or not.
- **The point is, this message, which was declared first by the Lord Jesus Christ,**
- Then attested to by the **words and life of the apostles.**
- And finally attested to by **God through signs and wonders and various miracles and gifts of the Holy Spirit.**
- This message is now **recorded for us by the Apostles in the New Testament.**
- Therefore, God is not performing signs and wonders through individuals to attest to their authority and message.
- Because that authority and message now resides **in the word of God.**
- Notice also that the writer says that **God bore witness by signs and wonders...**
- He uses the **past tense**; this is not a continuing thing.
- We have already **been given all the proof we need to believe the gospel,**
- namely, that it was given by the Lord himself and fully attested in the ministry and miracles of the apostles.
- And furthermore, as we saw in **verse 1 of Hebrews,**
- God's final, complete revelation came to us through his Son and is recorded in the **New Testament.**
- So, I hope that helps you understand **a little more about the purpose of miracles.**
- And helps you see why the church is filled with pastors and teachers of the word,
- And not miracle workers.
- **But as I said, that's really a side point that comes out of our text.**
- Again, the main point is, ***"We must pay much closer attention to the message we have heard, lest we drift away from it."***
- And the reason is because this message is from God, it's divine, it came first through Christ, then through his apostles, and it is verified by signs, wonders, miracles.
- And even though **the miracles that God did through Jesus and the Apostle to attest to the gospel have already taken place.**

- There is still a miracle that happens today that **attests to the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ.**
- **A miracle, not performed by any man.**
- But a miracle **performed by God** in the lives of those who hold fast to the message of God's Word.
- It's the miracle of a **changed life**, a **changed heart and mind**,
- changed **attitudes**, and changed **behaviors**,
- The miracle is **a life being changed into the likeness of God's Son, Jesus Christ.**
- This is the added **wonder** by which God **commends his Word to the world today**,
- **Christian people living out their faith**, not perfectly **but seeking to do God's will.**
- Seeking to **live a pure, holy, loving life** in a world filled with pride and greed and lust of all kinds.
- As God does a work in you, through his Word,
- He will use the miracle of your life to commend his message of great salvation to others.
- I think this is what Jesus was talking about, when in **the Sermon on the Mount** he said...

¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. (Matthew 5:14-16)

- The miraculous light of changed life, a life of love and good works, will give authority to the one who has made these changes, **it will attest to God's message of great salvation.**
- It will cause people to ask about the hope that is in you.
- And it will, when received by others, give glory to our Father who is in Heaven.
- **AMEN!**
- So, over the past two weeks, we've seen that there is **a risk of drifting away from the gospel.**
- And we've seen the remedy to that risk,
- We must pay much **closer attention to the gospel**,
- We must believe it, focus on it, understand it and live it.
- We've, also seen the ultimate result of drifting away from the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- And that result is **retribution greater than what was experienced by those who disobeyed the lesser Mosaic Law.**
- And finally, we've seen the **reason** for not drifting away from the message we have heard.
- That is, because this message of **great salvation is true!**
- It's verified by three witnesses.
- It was declared by the Lord Jesus Himself.
- It was attested to by Apostles.
- And it was born witness to God through signs, wonders, various miracles, and gift of the Holy Spirit.

- And its truth continues to be attested to by both **the word of God**.
- and the lives of those who've received such a great salvation.
- And so, with these truths ringing in our ears,
- as we leave this place, maybe heading off to a Super Bowl Party where there are people who are living in darkness.
- I'd charge you once more, do not allow the powerful currents of this world to pull you away from the message you have heard.
- Instead, commit yourself to pay much closer attention to the message of a great salvation in Jesus Christ.
- Use the oars you've been given to paddle against the current.
- And let the miracle of your transformed life shine a light into the darkness of this world.
- Would you pray with me to that end.