

Lessons From Hebrews

Drifting Away

(He 2:1-4)

INTRODUCTION

1. Good Evening,
 - a. Greeting...
2. Series of "Lessons From Hebrews."
 - a. Today we will be looking at **He 2:1-4**.
 - i. Here the Hebrew writer explains the problem of drifting away and the avenue by which to fix it.
3. God's children have a history of drifting away.
 - a. Adam & Eve to Noah
 1. Only 8 souls were obedient to God.
 - b. Israelites in Egypt to the Israelites out of Egypt.
 1. A whole generation lost.
 - c. Israelites during the judges.
 1. One generation faithful then the next knew not God.
4. The Hebrew recipients of this letter.
 - a. They were a people that had become children of God.
 - i. However they were on the verge of become the "rocky ground."
 1. **Mt 13:20-21** "As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away."¹
 - b. The Hebrew writer was trying to keep them from falling into this category.
 - i. He did not want them to become rocky soil.
5. Like with the Hebrew brethren we too can find ourselves challenged by life's trials and tribulations.
 - a. Let's look at what the writer states will help us never be considered rock ground.

I. The Way To Keep From Drifting Away

- A. We must heed/pay close attention to the Word of God
 1. The Greek words for "pay much closer attention" literally means...
 - i. To superabundantly hold the mind towards.
 2. The Greek word for "drifting away" literally means...
 - i. To unknowingly float away from the initial destination.
 3. Thus the idea being presented is that if they didn't want to unknowingly float away from truth they needed to superabundantly hold fast their mind towards God's Word.
 - i. How can anyone drift away if they are focused on God's Word.
 - ii. Remember this isn't talking about casual consideration but rather deep meditation and complete and utter focus specific to the Mind of God, His Word.

¹ All Scriptures are taken from the ESV unless otherwise noted. If other translations are used this is not necessarily an endorsement of the translation.

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4. If we want to keep ourselves from unknowingly falling away from God we need to have our noses in the Good Book reading, studying, and meditating constantly.
 - i. **Ac 17:11** "Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, **examining the Scriptures daily** to see if these things were so."
- B. We must trust in the Word of God
 1. When we focus on God's Word we will find it is reliable and trustworthy.
 - i. It never "messes up" and gives bad advice.
 - ii. It never "changes" and becomes obsolete.
 2. When we focus on God's Word we will find it passes every possible test of authenticity.
 - i. It never "contradicts" and leads to confusion.
 - ii. It never "falls short" and lets anyone down.
 3. If we want to keep ourselves from drifting away we not only need to focus on God's Word but we need to put our full trust in Him.
 - i. **He 10:22** "let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water."

II. The Consequences Of Drifting Away

- A. Notice what the Hebrew writer explains
 1. **He 2:2-3** "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..."
- B. Focus on the power of these verses
 1. If the O.T. proved to be trustworthy and everyone who sinned against it received a just punishment, how could Christians escape punishment if they neglect such a great salvation?
- C. If Christians neglect such a great salvation they...
 1. Will have crucified Christ all over again.
 - i. **He 6:4-6** "For it is impossible, in the case of those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, and have shared in the Holy Spirit, 5 and have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come, 6 and then have fallen away, to restore them again to repentance, since they are crucifying once again the Son of God to their own harm and holding him up to contempt."
 2. Will receive a punishment that is just.
 - i. **Ro 2:5** "But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed."
 - ii. **Pr 1:18** "but these men lie in wait for their own blood; they set an ambush for their own lives."

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CONCLUSION

1. Brethren let it be said of each of us that we hold our anchor of focus exclusively on God's Word putting our full trust in Him continuously drawing closer to Him knowing our God is a just and righteous God.
 - a. Let none of us be found to have been drifting away from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
2. Question: Do you have the superabundant mental focus on the Word of God or are you unknowingly drifting away?
 - a. As you examine your life if you find you have been drifting away make the change now and paddle back to the area of righteousness.
 - b. As you examine your life if you find you have not been drifting away make every effort to help those around that are and help them get back and encourage and strengthen the others that are faithful and true.
3. Invitation
 - a. For those that are Christians but are not living for Christ repent by confessing your sins to God that He may forgive you and dedicate your life/time back to Him.
 - i. **I Jn 1:7, 9** "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin...9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
 - b. For those that are not Christians or for those that think they are Christians and want to know for sure notice what is required to become a child of God or Christian according to God and God only.
 - i. Hear/Study **Rom 10:17; II Tim 2:15**
 - ii. Believe Jesus Is The Christ **Jn 3:16; 8:24**
 - iii. Repent/Turn To God **Ac 17:30; Lk 24:47**
 - iv. Confess Jesus As Lord **Mt 10:32; Rom 10:9**
 - v. Immersed For The Forgiveness of Sins **Ac 2:38; 22:16; I Pt 3:21**
 - vi. Live A Faithful Life **I Jn 1:7; Eph 5:8**