

Neglecting So Great A Salvation – 09/27/20

TEXT- Heb 2:1-4 *Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip.*

INTRO –

Backsliding – drifting – apathy – lukewarm – in a rut VS.

Zealous – on fire – vigilant – faithful – abounding 1 Cor. 15:58

The pastor stated the greatest problem of the church today is apathy and ignorance. A man responded frankly I don't know and I don't care.

Deu 32:35 *To me belongeth vengeance, and recompence; their foot shall slide in due time: for the day of their calamity is at hand, and the things that shall come upon them make haste.*

Your car can drift into the other lane.

A nation can drift.

Institutions can experience drifting.

Denominations also drift.

Marriages can drift. “I don't know what happened, we just drifted apart.”

Churches drift.

Believers can drift

In the first warning, the writer of Hebrews warned about drifting away from the Lord. The Greek verb used here means to “drift or flow alongside”. The Metaphor in mind seems to be that of allowing the current to carry one away from a fixed point through carelessness and unconcern. Instead of keeping a firm grip on the truth, the person drifts.

I. The Condition

Far up the Niagara River, boaters begin to see signs of warning of the impending falls. Some have not heeded the warnings signs and have gone to their death over the 167 foot drop. Let's look at the danger of drifting.

Hebrews has warnings to believers about:

- negligence (2:1-4),
- disobedience (3:7-19),
- desertion(5:11-6:20),
- rebellion (10:19-39),
- worldliness(12:14-17),
- unwillingness to listen to God(12: 25-29).

The loss of zeal and excitement will lead to backsliding.

There is a pattern – Missing Bible reading, missing a service, failure to tithe, defending their decisions, a critical spirit, abandonment of their Christian life.

Consider Lot and Sampson

II. The Cause

Neglect - Inattention

1 Ti 4:14 *Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery.*

Hurt feelings – unresolved differences

Disappointment

The love of money

1 Ti 6:10 *For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.*

Lust - Rev 18:14 *And the fruits that thy soul lusted after are departed from thee, and all things which were dainty and goodly are departed from thee, and thou shalt find them no more at all.*

Worldliness

2 Ti 4:10 *For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia.*

Carnality

1 Co 3:3 *For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?*

Confidence in the flesh – 1 Co 10:12 *Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.*

III. The Cost

Judgment from God – How shall we escape?

Happiness is lost

Health can be lost

Friends may be lost

Sinners may remain lost

Our family is affected

There may be financial loss

Hag 1:6 *Ye have sown much, and bring in little; ye eat, but ye have not enough; ye drink, but ye are not filled with drink; ye clothe you, but there is none warm; and he that earneth wages earneth wages to put it into a bag with holes.*

IV. The Cure

C.S. Lewis wrote, “We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum. We are far too easily pleased.”

Heb. 2:1 *give the more earnest heed*

Give heed

God uses tragedy to wake us up

The prodigal son ended up in the pig pen

Turn our eyes on Jesus so *“the things of this world will grow strangely dim in the light of His glory and grace.”*

Recognize the supremacy of Christ and put our trust in Him. Heb 1:10

And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands:

Understand the damage of ignoring little things

Song of Solomon 2:15 *Take us the foxes, the little foxes, that spoil the vines: for our vines have tender grapes.*

Return to your first love.

Rev 2:4-5 *Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. 5 Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.*

CONCL – Rev 3:19 *As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.*