

Drifting

Hebrews 2:1, "Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things that were heard, lest haply we **drift away (from them)**" (ASV)

"lest at any time we should **let them slip**" (KJV)

1

Satan has a kingdom. cf. Col. 1:13

John 14:28-31 (verse 30), "I will no more speak much with you, for the **prince of the world** cometh: and he hath nothing in me."

John 16:8-11, "And he, when he is come, will convict the world in respect of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: of sin, because they believe not on me: of righteousness, because I go to the Father, and ye behold me no more; of judgment, because the **prince of this world** hath been judged."

2 Corinthians 4:4, "in whom the **god of this world** hath blinded the minds of the unbelieving, that the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should not dawn (upon them)."

Ephesians 2:2, "wherein ye once walked according to the course of this world, according to the **prince of the powers of the air**, of the spirit that now worketh in the sons of disobedience"

2

At War.

- ▶ Satan continues to work through the flesh to gain control of the spirit.
- ▶ Christ continues to work to conquer the flesh and control the spirit.
 - **This he does by the word of God. "Go make disciples ... " "Go preach ... " Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:15; teach, teach, Titus 2:11.**
 - Note: Luke 16:29-31**
- ▶ You are a creature of choice. cf. Matthew 11:28, you choose. Romans 6:16
- ▶ **Warnings ... cf. Acts 20:31; 2 Peter 2:20-22**

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The Possibility of Drifting. Hebrews 2:1

Galatians 5:4, "Ye are severed from Christ, ye who would be justified by the law; ye are fallen away from grace." Galatians 5:4 (KJV), "Christ is become of no effect unto you ..."

Luke 9:62, "No man, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."

1 Corinthians 10:12, "Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall."

Galatians 5:19ff, Sins of the flesh.

Galatians 6:1, "Brethren, even if a man be overtaken in any trespass, ye who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; looking to thyself, lest thou also be tempted."

4

Reasons For Drifting – EASIER

- ▶ It is the **easiest** course to pursue. Matthew 22:5
 - It is easier to overlook a little *neglect* than to press for improvement. Hebrews 2:3
- ▶ It is **easier** to accept a little immorality in our friends or loved ones than to condemn their sin. 1 Thessalonians 5:21; Romans 12:2; Matthew 19:9
- ▶ It is **easier** to keep our mouths shut than to stand up and defend the truth. Jude 3
- ▶ It is **easier** to make excuses than to accept responsibility. Luke 14:15ff; Genesis 3

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Reasons For Drifting – WORLDLY CARES

- ▶ Jesus pointed out that the **cares of this world** could affect the productivity of the Word in our lives. Matthew 13:22
- ▶ The Hebrew writer warned of the deceitfulness of sin. Hebrews 3:13
- ▶ We simply might become "*weary in well doing.*" 2 Thessalonians 3:13
cf. Paul in Lystra. Acts 14:22

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Reasons For Drifting – *IGNORANCE*

- ▶ A **lack of knowledge** may cause us to drift back into the world. Hosea 4:6; Ephesians 4:18
- ▶ Need to study. 2 Timothy 2:15; 2 Peter 3:18; Ephesians 5:17
- ▶ Ignorance makes many people easy prey to all kinds of error and immorality.

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Reasons For Drifting – *IGNORANCE*

- ▶ **Preachers not preaching** the whole truth on some subjects causes drifting back into the world. Matthew 28:19ff; 2 Timothy 4:2; Acts 20:27

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Reasons For Drifting – *IGNORANCE*

Shepherds / Elders who do not lead.

Acts 20:28–30; 1 Peter 5:2; Hebrews 13:17; cf. Ezekiel 34:2–10

Sheep who will not follow.

- Many are they who are carelessly absorbed in other things. cf. Luke 8:14; 10:38ff; 12:16–21; 14:15ff
- Efforts to serve two masters. Matthew 6:24; Matthew 19:16ff; James 4:4; Matthew 16:24

9

The Ruin Of Drifting Back Into The World.

- ▶ Nadab and Abihu. Leviticus 10:1–2
- ▶ Ananias and Sapphira. Acts 5
- ▶ Demas loved this present world and forsook Paul. 2 Timothy 4:10
- ▶ The Jews, time and again, drifted away from God. cf. Hebrews 2:1; 3:12

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How To Prevent Drifting Back Into The World.

Hebrews 2:1, "Therefore we ought to ***give the more earnest heed to the things that were heard, lest haply we drift away (from them).***"

- ▶ "*Heed*" *proséché* – "To have in addition, to hold the mind or the ear toward someone ... to pay attention. As a nautical term, it means to hold a ship in a direction, to sail towards ... it means to hold on one's course toward a place. (The Complete Word Study Dictionary)
 - ▶ "*More earnest*" *perissoteroos* – "properly, more abundantly; in the N.T. more, in a greater degree; more earnestly, more exceedingly, Mark 15:14" (Thayer)
- Hebrews 2:2–3; cf. 1 Corinthians 15:58 Consistent action.

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The Reward For Not Drifting Back Into The World.

- ▶ A crown of life. Revelation 2:10
- ▶ A crown of righteousness. 2 Timothy 4:6–8
- ▶ An inheritance in heaven. 1 Peter 1:3–5
- ▶ All, or each, of these are expressive of the promised reward. If we overcome we can share the Lord's throne with him. Revelation 3:21

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