

A. DRIFTING AWAY HAS A CAUSE

If you fall asleep while driving it's because of fatigue or the monotony of the road

If your boat slips off it's moorings it's because it wasn't tied securely

If your wedding rings skip off, you've either lost a substantial amount of weight, or it was the wrong size to begin with. Either way you're in big trouble!

So what might cause a believer to drift away?

1. Distractions

a. (Luke 10:40) tells about a woman (Martha) who was distracted.

1) even the work of ministry can be a distraction from what's really important (e.g. time w/the Lord.

b. (Matthew 13:7) is the parable of the sower.

1) Explanation in (:22)

2. Deception

a. Jesus warns us about that in (Matthew 24:4-5)

b. And in (Matthew 24:11)

c. False doctrines always bring us under bondage & steal our joy.

3. A Careless Attitude Towards The Lord - "Familiarity Breeds Contempt"

a. After a season it's easy to take for granted / fail to appreciate things of great value

1) when you first get that new car: garage, wipe down, keep vacuumed...

2) but after a while: leave it out in the rain, burger wrapper & Starbucks cups...

3) you don't mean to drift away from appreciating/valuing that new car, but you do

b. In the same way, you might "get used" to having Jesus in your life and forget:

2) God gave His only Son so that whoever believes in Him could have eternal life

B. DRIFTING AWAY DOES NOT OCCUR SUDDENLY - IT HAPPENS OVER TIME.**1. Very Few Just Suddenly Stop Being Interested In Salvation****2. Some People That Drift Away Were Really Never Tied Securely To The Dock.**

a. (Matthew 13:5-6; 20-21) - Parable of Sower: Deep roots

b. (John 10:3) "The watchman opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out."

1) some sheep that drift away were never really part of the flock

C. WHAT IS IT, EXACTLY, THAT IS DRIFTED AWAY FROM?**1. (:1) "What We Have Heard" = The Truth That It's Only In Jesus That Life Has Meaning****2. (:2) Talks About A "Message Spoken By Angels", In Reference To The Law.**

a. Jewish tradition = Moses received history & law from angels

b. A transgression / trespass is a deliberate violation...

c. A disobedience is turning a deaf ear...

d. "If these received a just punishment, then how shall we escape if we ignore such a great salvation?"

1) (Hebrews 10:28) expands on this verse.

2) To drift away from this great salvation of ours is to insult the Spirit of grace.

a) "...lost their vision of grace."

b) when you let your attention drift off of God's grace, you're gonna drift away from Him

e. The result of drifting away from the gospel is that you'll miss out on God's blessings in your life.

1) Jesus blood covers all sin - even the sin of your drifting away.

- 2) Once saved/Always saved?
 - a) Were they really His sheep? (if they were, Jesus said "no one can snatch them from my hand")
- 3) I have two answers to "Can I Drift So Far That I Lose my salvation?".
 - a) if living comfortably given over to sin = yes (shallow roots)
 - b) if living in fear/insecurity = no
- 4) That's one of the things that make our salvation so great!
 - a) God gave His only Son to provide it.
 - b) He offers it to anyone whosoever, will Trust Him For It
 - c) and once you do, He will not take it back.
 - d) but you do need to pay careful attention to it, so that you do not drift away from it's blessings.