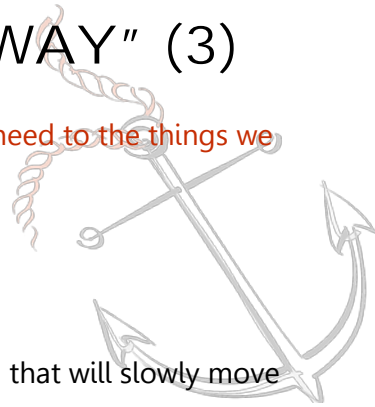




"LEST WE DRIFT AWAY" (3)

"Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away" (Heb. 2:1).



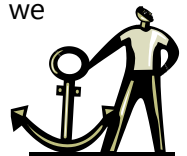
We remain tied to Hebrews 2:1 and will see three more undercurrents that will slowly move the Christian away from his God and his eternal goal.

- **Hardness** (Mk. 4:16, 17). "Stony ground" is not fit for an anchor to attach to. Such soil permits one no "root in themselves." A "rootless" Christian will not remain loyal and will abandon their post. What attachment they had in the word will not hold well in them! This becomes evident by the trials they face. When outside adversity strikes, they no longer endure. Yet it is important that the Lord shows that this persecution is for the "word's sake." Their alliance to the word is weaker than their attachment and acceptance with that which opposes the word, whatever that may be. Three times our Hebrew text warns, "Do not harden your hearts" (Heb. 3:8, 15; 4:7). It identifies the hardening agent as the deceitfulness of sin (Heb. 3:13). Acceptance of sin deceitfully and slowly hardens a heart against the word like cement that slowly dries. Reasons for disloyalty to the word may stem from the desire of family acceptance, sustaining friendships, protecting a prized social identity, or preserving a job. Whatever it may be, it denies Jesus and will be denied by Jesus when He comes again.

"If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple. And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple" (Lk. 14:26, 27).

- **Worldly concerns** (Mk. 4:18, 19). Things in the *world* have a way of distracting us and leading away from the things in the *word*. In the worldly Christian, the cares of the world often compete against the word. Jesus warned that the cares of the world, the deceitfulness of wealth, and the desire for other things will "choke," or *suffocate* and *strangle*, the word. The word "choke" is seen pictorially when Jesus was trying to move and the multitudes were thronging and pressing upon Him (Lk. 8:42-45). The base of this word is also seen in the swine; when the demons entered them, they ran violently down into the sea until they *drowned* (Lk. 8:33).
- **Losing heart by growing weary** (Gal. 6:9, 10). The Christian should pace himself and keep his eye on the goal, lest he become spiritless. Doing what is good can feel exhausting at times. Yet we need to remember that with God, we will reap what we sow, "...for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart" (Gal. 6:9).

Next week we will look at the Holy Spirit's remedy to not drift away.



—Steven J. Wallace