

Welcome To Open Bible Hour

Thank you for joining us on this Lord's Day!

Our desire is that you may grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ as we pursue an in-depth study of the book of Hebrews.

If you have a prayer request, for which you would like us to pray, please fill out a prayer sheet at the back table and give to Lyle.

Our website: OpenBibleHour.net

“THE DANGER OF DRIFTING”

Heb. 2:1

September 30, 2012

Heb 2:1

2 For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away from it.

Deut 4:9

9 "Only give heed to yourself and keep your soul diligently, so that you do not forget the things which your eyes have seen and they do not depart from your heart all the days of your life;

The 6 Warnings of Hebrews

1. Warning against drifting from “the things we have heard” (2:1–4)
2. Warning against disbelieving the “voice” of God (3:7–14)
3. Warning against degenerating from “the elementary principles of Christ” (5:11–6:20)
4. Warning against despising “the knowledge of the truth” (10:26–39)
5. Warning against devaluing “the grace of God” (12:15–17)
6. Warning against departing from Him “who speaks” (12:25–29)

I. What is drifting?

Def. “To be carried along by currents of water”.

John 7:38

38 "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said,
'From his innermost being will **flow rivers** of living
water.'"



Eph 2:1-3

- 1 And you were dead in your trespasses and sins,
- 2 in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.
- 3 Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.

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"A slow and steady departure from the truth caused by not being anchored in the Word!"

It happens gradually, almost undetected. You don't feel it.

John Courson said "Most of us are not in danger of plunging into the sea of carnality. This week or next week...most of us are not going to be murderers or drug addicts...The danger is not plunging into the ocean of perversity, but rather drifting away almost imperceptibly (unnoticed)"

Drifting away is always subtle. You don't know it is taking place. One day, you wake up only to realize that you are far from where you should be.



Bible
Study

Prayer

Witnessing

Serving

Giving

Fellowship
with other
believers.

B

A

Rev 3:1-4

"To the angel of the church in Sardis write:

- 1 He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars, says this: 'I know your deeds, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead.
- 2 'Wake up, and strengthen the things that remain, which were about to die; for I have not found your deeds completed in the sight of My God.
- 3 'So remember what you have received and heard; and keep it, and repent. Therefore if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come to you.
- 4 'But you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their garments; and they will walk with Me in white, for they are worthy.



Modern Turkey. Ancient Sardis. Acropolis of Sardis from the highway. View from the "north". Recent excavations in Lydian, Hellenistic, & Roman levels visible in foreground. July 1990.



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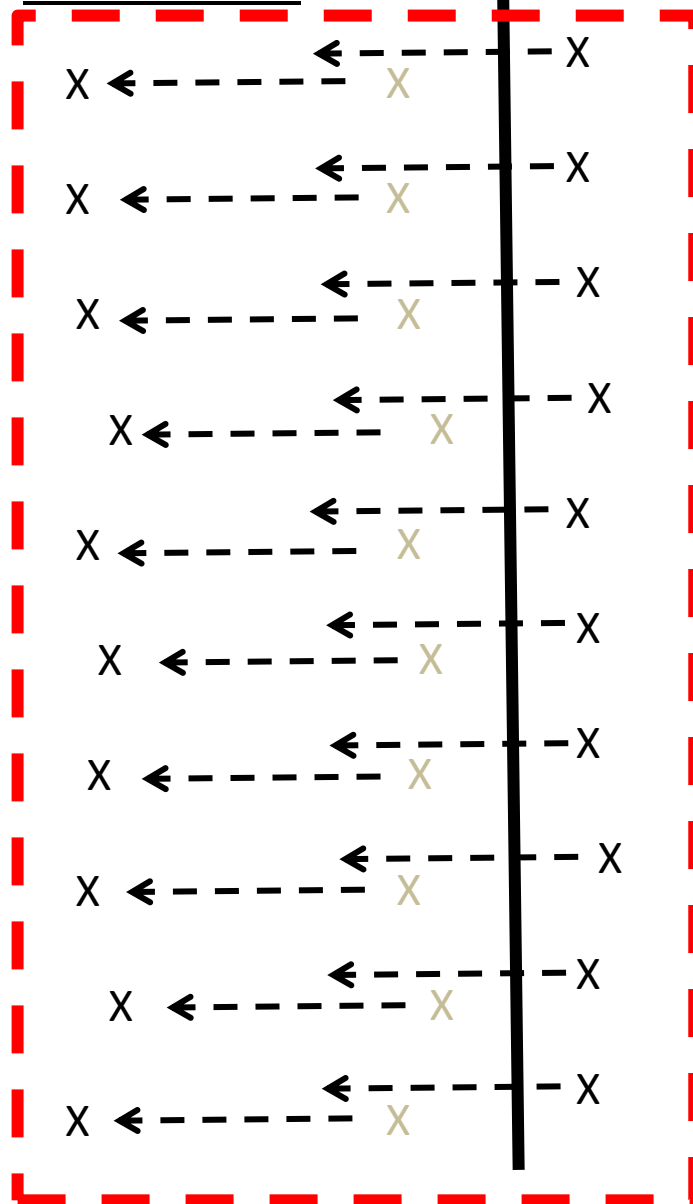
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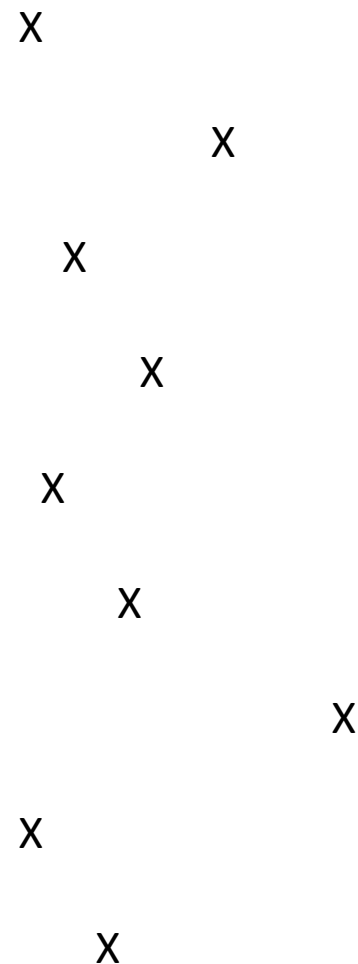
II. Who drifts?

A. Individuals

Unsaved



Saved



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9 "Only give heed to yourself and keep your soul diligently, so that you do not forget the things which your eyes have seen and they do not depart from your heart all the days of your life;

II. Who drifts?

- A. Individuals
- B. Churches
- C. Seminaries
- D. Christian Colleges
- E. Christian Schools (K-12)
- F. Denominations
- G. Christian Organizations

Church



Christian Organizations

Denomination



Seminary/College/Schools



Individuals

III. What are the characteristics of drifting?

A. Undisciplined/Laziness.

B. Spiritual Deadness.

“Drifting is the quietest, easiest, most delightful way of dying” - William Newel









Salmon teach the believer that fight, perseverance, and vigilance are a way of life for those who desire to accomplish more with their time here on earth than simply drifting.

III. What are the characteristics of drifting?

A. Laziness.

B. Spiritual Deadness.

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C. Busyness.

D. Going through the motions.

E. Doubt/Questioning God.

F. Your heart changes from the things of God to the things of this world.

G. Loss of Priorities.

H. Loss of Passion.

I. We Don't Fear Sin.

IV. What causes drifting?

- A. Lack of depth.
- B. Hurt/Wounded.
- C. Trials/Suffering.
- D. False Teaching.
- E. Neglect/Lack of Discipline.
- F. Appeal of the World.

2 Tim 4:9-10

9 Make every effort to come to me soon;

10 for Demas, having loved this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica;

1 Tim 1:18-20

18 This command I entrust to you, Timothy, my son, in accordance with the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you fight the good fight,

19 keeping faith and a good conscience, which some have rejected and suffered shipwreck in regard to their faith.

20 Among these are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan, so that they will be taught not to blaspheme.

Mark 4:18-19

18 "And others are the ones on whom seed was sown among the thorns; these are the ones who have heard the word,

19 but the worries of the world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.

1 John 2:15-17

15 Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.

17 The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.

John 15:19

19 "If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you.

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- A. Lack of depth.
- B. Hurt/Wounded.
- C. Trials.
- D. False Teaching.
- E. Neglect/Lack of Discipline.
- F. Appeal of the World.
- G. Compromise.

V. How do you stop drifting?

- A. Get in the fight.

1 Tim 6:12

12 Fight the good fight of faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called,

2 Tim 4:7

7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith;

Eph 6:11

11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.

1 Cor 9:26-27

26 Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air;

27 but I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified.

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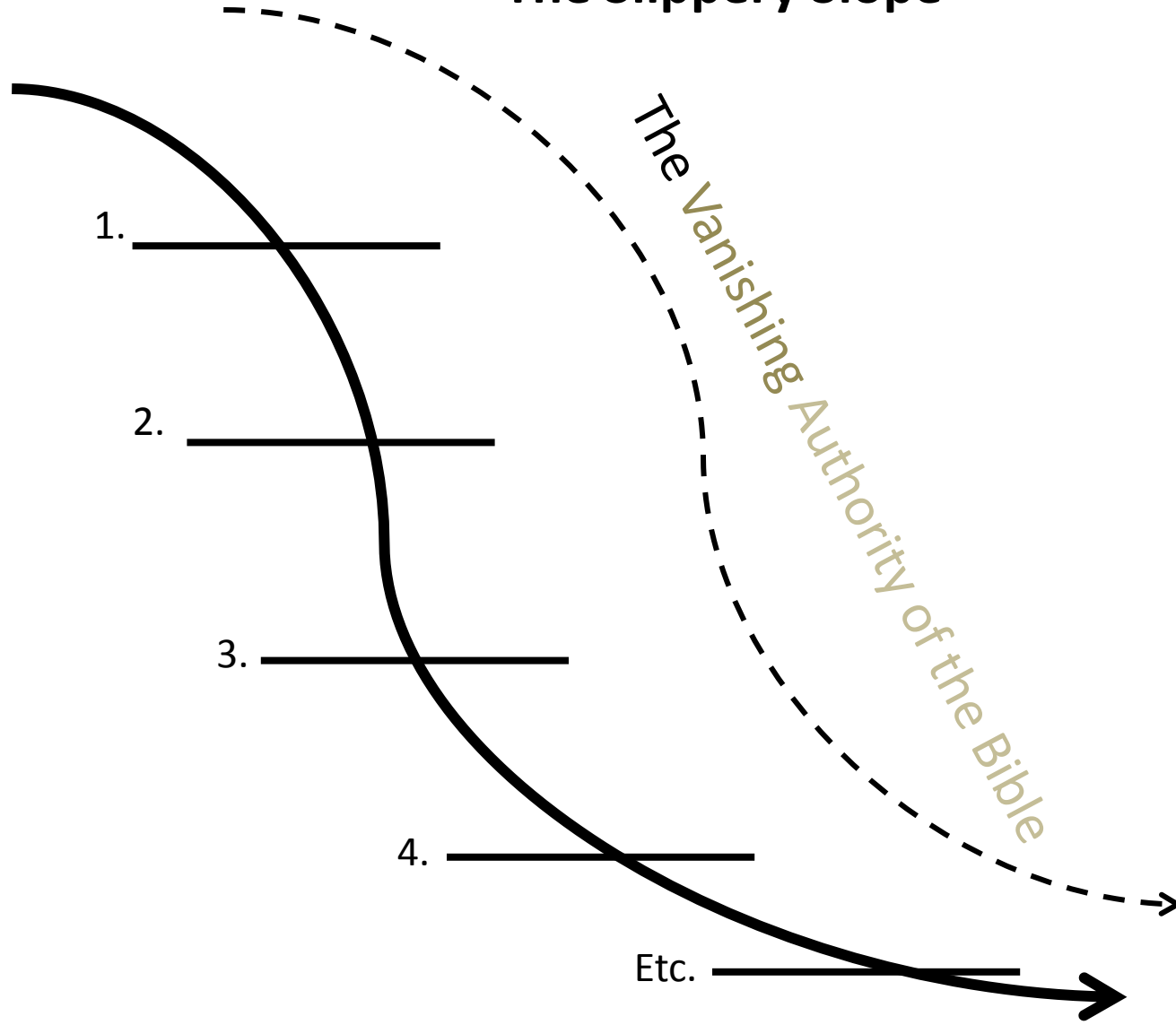
V. How do you stop drifting?

- A. Get in the fight.
- B. Get a grasp on eternity.
- C. Repent
- D. Catch it early.

2 Cor 10:5

5 We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ,

The Slippery Slope



Application

1. All of life is motion – moving forward or backward but not standing still.
2. People seldom lose their faith by a blowout--it is usually a slow leak.
3. When you neglect your spiritual walk for even a short time you begin to drift away from God.
4. Has there ever been a time in your life, when you were more dedicated to Christ?

Has there ever been a time when you were closer to the Lord Jesus than you are right now?

Have you ever been more surrendered in your life than you are at this moment?

Has there ever been a time that you were more committed to living for Christ than you are right now?

If so, you have been drifting.