

Reedy Fork Baptist Church

Wednesday, April 22, 2026

BIBLE STUDY

Theme: " "The Danger of Drifting" "

SCRIPTURE IN RESPONSE: Hebrews 2:1-9, NIV

¹ We must pay the most careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away.

² For since the message spoken through angels was binding, and every violation and disobedience received its just punishment,

³ how shall we escape if we ignore so great a salvation? This salvation, which was first announced by the Lord, was confirmed to us by those who heard him.

⁴ God also testified to it by signs, wonders and various miracles, and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.

⁵ It is not to angels that he has subjected the world to come, about which we are speaking.

⁶ But there is a place where someone has testified: "What is mankind that you are mindful of them, a son of man that you care for him?"

⁷ You made them a little[Ⓜ] lower than the angels; you crowned them with glory and honor

⁸ and put everything under their feet." In putting everything under them,[Ⓜ] God left nothing that is not subject to them.[Ⓜ] Yet at present we do not see everything subject to them.[Ⓜ]

⁹ But we do see Jesus, who was made lower than the angels for a little while, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

I. Key Words:

- Danger
- Attention
- Drifting
- Salvation

II. People, Places, & Times:

- Hebrews

III. Background:

Hebrews 2:1-4 is the first of five major warnings in the book of Hebrews, urging believers to pay close attention to the gospel to avoid "drifting away" from their faith. Following the declaration of Christ's superiority over angels in chapter 1, the passage argues that neglecting this "so great salvation" brings greater judgment than disobeying the Old Covenant.

The writer of the letter to the Hebrews posted warnings throughout his letter.

He 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), and unwillingness to listen to God (12:25-29).

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 or by."

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.

Using the metaphor of drifting lets us gain insights about moving away from the fixed point of the gospel.

IV. In Depth:

1. Lesson Emphasis: 1. The reality of drifting.

A. The writer of Hebrews began with the possibility of God's people drifting.

B. The possibility of drifting may be seen in Bible characters.

1. Lot pitched his tent toward Sodom. (Genesis 13:12)
2. Samson drifted in his relations with Delilah. (Judges 16)
3. David was a man after God's own heart," but in a moment of leisure, his heart drifted with lust toward Bathsheba. (2 Samuel 11)
4. Peter's denial of Jesus came as a result of drifting away from commitment to Christ. (Luke 22:54-62)

C. Drifting is a possibility in any Christian's life.

2. Lesson Emphasis #2: The Reason for Drifting.

- A.** The writer of the letter to the Hebrews diagnosed the possibility and cause of drifting.
- B.** The believers were neglecting their great salvation experience in Christ, and this neglect caused them to drift.
- C.** People drift from the gospel due to a gradual, often unintentional, neglect of their spiritual lives, commonly driven by preoccupation with worldly cares, busyness, and complacency rather than sudden rebellion.

1. Neglecting Come Through Inattention.

The readers of the letter to the Hebrews were not giving attention to their salvation experience in Jesus Christ. They had joined life with Christ, but they had failed to open more of life to the Lord. This inattention caused drifting.

2. Drifting comes through lack of discipline.

Paul wrote to Timothy, "Do not neglect your gift" (1 Tim. 4:14 NIV). Becoming a better Christian involves spiritual discipline. Unless a Christian resists the Devil, studies God's Word, engages in prayer daily, and applies faith to life, drifting is inevitable.

3. Lesson Emphasis #3: The Result of Drifting.

The writer of the letter to the Hebrews examined the possibility and cause of drifting. He then listed the tragic result of drifting-punishment: "every violation and disobedience received its just punishment" (Heb. 2:2 NIV).

- A.** Drifting inevitably led to punishment for God's people in Old Testament times.
- B.** Drifting always leads to punishment for God's people in the present.

4. Lesson Emphasis #4: Lesson Emphasis #4:The remedy for drifting.

- A.** He wrote, We must pay more attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away" (Heb. 2:1 NIV).
- B.** The remedy for drifting is obvious—give heed to what you have heard.

1. Look to the initial experience with Christ.

The writer's expression "what we have heard" refers back to the initial experience of salvation, the time when Christ was invited into a person's life.

