

Drifting to Damnation (Warning #1)

Studies in Hebrews

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Bible Text: Hebrews 2:1-4

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What we find in verses one through four is a warning to neglectful drifters, those who neglect the Word of God and consequently are drifting away from Christianity and, as a result, have placed themselves in danger of eternal damnation.

We find as we come to the Word of God there is constant exhortation to press on in the faith, constant exhortation to persevere, to endure, to produce fruit. The Word of God teaches us that we have got to press on. And as we find in this section—verses one through four—you will remember Hebrews is written by a preacher. It is not merely some academic tome. It is not merely some academic kind of intellectual ivory tower writing. It is a written sermon. As a result this written sermon has the exhortations that preaching has in it.

I remember when I was in seminary I didn't know... well, actually before that in Bible college, you know, just writing papers and that sort of thing. And as I am writing these papers, so I am writing a paper like it is a sermon. And when you are in school they don't want you writing papers like sermons. You know, you are exhorting people and calling... they kind of want you in seminary just sort of write intellectually. And Hebrews would not pass as a seminary paper, seminary thesis for anything, but it passes as an incredibly powerful sermon.

And so what the preacher has done in chapter one is he has set up his topic and that is the supremacy of Christ, the absolute ruling, supremacy of Christ and in good preaching, homiletical style he lays out the seven supremacies of Christ. And then using a rabbinical, homiletical technique, in other words, the preaching style of the Jewish rabbis, he then lists a string of pearls, seven Scriptures in a row supporting what he has stated as his thesis at the very beginning of chapter one that Jesus Christ is God's final, full and ultimate self revelation. There is no need for any more revelations. There are no more revelations. There is the final revelation in the person of Jesus Christ.

The modern charismatic doctrine of additional revelation does not fit with what the preacher has said in the Word of God that Jesus Christ is the supreme and final revelation. And he gives seven pearls, seven texts in chapter one.

However, you will remember this is a sermon, as I just said and, as a result, it is not enough for him to just say, “Jesus is Lord. Jesus is God. Jesus is the Creator. Jesus is this, that and the next thing. All right, now let’s go to our next point,” because Christianity is not about merely filling your mind with information. Christianity is about information for life transformation. There has got to be the corresponding and radical life change. Otherwise that information is absolutely an abomination to God. For us to simply pile up Scripture memory, for us to pile up sermons and I can remember going to deacons homes and Sunday school teacher’s homes as a young man and I would see their shelves all full of... yes, we did a study on this and a study on that and a study on the next thing. And when you get down to talking about their life, their prayer life stinks. They are not evangelistic. They are not good fathers. They are not good husbands. They begrudge every little, you know, dime that they give to the church. They won’t give to missions. They are cheaters on their taxes and on and on.

It is not enough to fill your mind with information. There has to be the corresponding life transformation and so now what the preacher does in chapter two is he takes a parenthesis, if you will, and he says, “All right. I have given you this fantastic information. Now you better act on it.” And he gives them the first of seven warning passages.

The book of Hebrews is built around and built upon these exhortations. Jesus Christ is God’s final, ultimate self revelation. He is almighty God in the flesh. He is superior to the prophets. He is superior to the angels. Now what are you going to do with it?

And so let me show you a couple of these warning passages. The first is in verse one.

“Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away.”¹

Now I make it a point. There are seven warning passages. Depending on the author that you read they will group them together a little differently so sometimes there will be five or six or seven. But basically the warning passages are in Hebrews two, three, four, six, 10 and 12. And as they break out I think they break out a little better into seven warning passages. We have just seen the first one. Let me show you the second one in chapter three.

He says in verse 12, “Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God.”²

You remember in 2:1 it says, “drifting away.”³ In chapter three it says, “in departing from the living God but exhort one another daily, while it is called “Today,” lest any of you be hardened.”⁴ You see the warning there.

¹ Hebrews 2:1.

² Hebrews 3:12.

³ Hebrews 2:1.

⁴ Hebrews 3:12-13.

Look over in chapter four and look at verse one. “Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest, let us fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it.”⁵

So we have falling away, drifting away, coming short. Look over in verse 11.

“Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience.”⁶

You see the same theme coming up: Warning, warning. You are in danger of falling. Warning. You are in danger of drifting away. Warning. Beware you are in danger lets anyone fall.

Look over in chapter six and he says in verse one.

“Therefore leaving the elementary principles of Christ let us go on to maturity,”⁷ and he gives some examples of that and then he gives the warning. He says in verse four:

For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, if they fall away...⁸

Do you see it again?

The same theme runs through the whole book, each of these warning passages: beware of falling away, beware of drifting away, beware of falling away, beware of coming short, beware of not entering in.

Look over in chapter 10. You find another and very serious warning passage in chapter 10 and look, if you will, at verse 23.

He says:

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking...⁹

See there? The drifting away, the forsaking of the assembling together.

And then it talks about the judgment. Drop down in verse 29.

⁵ Hebrews 4:1.

⁶ Hebrews 4:11.

⁷ See Hebrews 6:1.

⁸ Hebrews 6:4-6.

⁹ Hebrews 10:23-25.

“Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace?”¹⁰

And down in verse 31, “It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.”¹¹

Then down in verse 39, “But we are not of those who draw back.”¹²

Do you see the same theme over and over and over and over? Beware of drawing back. Beware of falling away. Beware of drifting away. Beware of not going all the way. Beware of falling short.

We find over in chapter 12 he says in chapter 12 verse 14, “Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: looking carefully lest anyone fall short...”¹³ See there again? Falling short of the grace of God.

So we could go through—and we will as the months go by—we will look at all of these texts in detail. But I wanted to show you how that these texts form, if you will, the scaffolding upon which the preacher of Hebrews is making his point. And his point is, in chapter two, verse one, “Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away.”¹⁴

And you notice that passage starts with “therefore.” What that says is: For this reason, based on the truth that you have just learned in all of chapter one and the truth is that Jesus Christ is God’s final and supreme self revelation, superior to the Old Testament prophets even though the Old Testament prophets were actual and real prophets of the true God and supreme to even angels. And the angels, certainly, are close to God in his throne room. But Jesus Christ is not around the throne as the angels are. Jesus Christ is seated on the throne. And Jesus Christ is not doing the worship. Jesus Christ is receiving the worship.

So Jesus Christ, the supreme Son of God, God’s final and ultimate supreme self revelation.

Now, again, why would the preacher bring this up? Why would this be such a relevant and important topic to the audience that he is writing to? They are in danger of drawing back. That is why he says, “Don’t draw back.” They are in danger of falling away. They are in danger of drifting.

¹⁰ Hebrews 10:29.

¹¹ Hebrews 10:31.

¹² Hebrews 10:39.

¹³ Hebrews 12:14-15.

¹⁴ Hebrews 2:1.

What kinds of things cause us to drift? We are going to see that in a moment, but I want to see, first of all, therefore, based on what we have seen in chapter one, Jesus Christ is superior. We must give the more earnest heed.

And here is what was happening. The Hebrew Christians—you remember this is the book of Hebrews—the Hebrew professing Christians because when I address the congregation I know in a church, even like ours---where the Word of God is preached fervently and faithfully, where you are held accountable, where we disciple you, et cetera, et cetera—in a church like this there are going to be genuine believers and false professors, those who simply profess with their mouth, “Man, I love you guys. I am just so glad to be in this church. This is a wonderful church.” But you are not genuinely converted.

So I address you as the church because I don’t know which is which. And so the warning goes out to all of you because we are all in danger if we don’t constantly stay in constant alert mode.

He says therefore their concern, their worry... Here you have these Hebrew professing Christians. We will just call them Christians in quotes. These Hebrew Christians had come along. They had heard about the Lord Jesus Christ. They had said, “Yes, we believe he is the Messiah.” And they had come along side of the church. They had joined the church. They had become involved in the church. But what did they do? They immediately started getting persecuted. They started... it is kind of tough to follow Christ and your father was not a Christian. He was a Jew.

How many people do I witness to and, “Oh, no, no, no. We are not Christians. We are Catholics. Oh, we are not Christians. We are Episcopalian. Or We are not Christians. We are Baptists.”

Wait, wait, wait. You know, it is supposed to be the same thing. But nowadays so often it is not.

And by Christian what they mean is the... you know, Christians like you guys, fervent, zealous, holy living, evangelistic, sacrificing for the glory of God, giving to meet needs, ripping sin ruthlessly out of your life. That’s a little bit too far.

And so the persecution ramps up and then you have stony ground hearers. You have people who have received the seed and, according to Mark 13, they received it immediately with joy, but there was no depth to their roots. And we can’t see that. When you walk up to a tree you don’t know how deep the roots go just by looking at it. And so is this from a distance?

You know, you have seen the... someone has got a plastic tree and from a distance you can’t tell. But, you know what reveals it? Persecution, trials, tribulations, a good strong wind. It tumbles right over revealing there is no roots.

Or, using the example of Jesus in Matthew 13, the roots, because it was on stony ground, it was on ground that had just a thin layer of soil over the bedrock, the roots didn't go deep, they just spread out and they are just a few inches under the surface, no long deep tap root, like a tree planted by the rivers of water drawing nourishment. And when the trials came, the cares of life, the struggles, the persecutions, the mockery, the threats from you wife.

“If you keep going to that church we are not going to be married much longer.”

The threats from your boss, you know, “If you keep that Jesus stuff up around here you are not going to be working here much longer.”

That threat from... on and on and on. In many countries it is a threat from the government. Thankfully it should not be and has not been to an extent that way here. But the more and more liberal theology takes over, the more that we open our country to false religion like Islam, the more and more Christianity is going to be persecuted.

That is what England did. England simply threw their arms open, “Come over here every heathen religion in the world.” And Islam comes in very nice and gentle to start. But now the radical Muslims are taking over London. There is bombings. There is murders. There is videos being sent to people of beheadings telling them that they must embrace Islam or this will happen to you.

So we have got to give the more earnest heed.

Now, it is interesting. It says, “Therefore,” so we just talked about that, referring back to chapter one. The word “we” here is not actually in the Greek. The way that it is worded is this. “Therefore, it is necessary to give more earnest heed.”

The point is he just jumps right into it. It is necessary. And the word for “must” here is a very strong word. This is not like, “It would be a good idea to pay a little bit of attention. Listen up, guys.”

You know, as you are sitting in the airplane and you have flown, you know, over and, “This is your mask. Put it around your head.”

Everyone is just reading magazines ignoring it, right?

This is not that. What the preacher is saying here is: You had better pay attention or you will pay the price. You had better pay attention or you will pay the price. And here is what we do. We neglect. We drift away. We think in our mind, “Oh, the preacher can't be talking about me. That just doesn't apply to me. I am a Christian.”

Pastor Dave, got you covered on that thing. We are good to go.

And so off we go, you know, just reading something else while the preacher rambles on. And the Word of God will not allow you to do that. He says, "It is necessary. We must give."

And the next word "more," the more earnest heed. In the original language this is a comparative such as "more than something," comparing something. But the reality is that it has superlative force. In other words, we must give the most earnest heed. We must give priority number one, job number one, absolute, total priority to giving heed.

And it doesn't just say the most heed, the most earnest heed to the things that we have heard.

You see on your notes the first warning there. Number one, warning, you better wake up because you are headed for hell. That is the warning that is being given to these people. You are pulling away not simply from a church that preaches and the service is too long and they ask for your money and so I am just going to go to the beach. No, what he is saying is you are pulling away from God. You are pulling away from almighty God.

When you pull away from Jesus Christ, when you pull away from assembling together you are pulling away from Jesus Christ. You had better give more earnest heed. Take heed. Drifters, take heed.

Verse 1a on your notes. Drifters had better take heed.

All right. Pastor Dave, what do you mean take heed? It doesn't say take head as though all you need to do is fill your mind with more facts. We absolutely should be studying. The Bible says, "Study to show yourself approved unto God."¹⁵

It is the Word of God, John 17:17, "Sanctify them through your Word. Your Word is truth."¹⁶

Sanctification does not come through subjective experiences. It comes from a diligent use of the means of grace, a study of the Word of God. However, there are plenty of people who read the Bible. They know certain things about the Bible. Maybe they study it a lot. And they have drifted as far as they can go.

So what does it mean to take heed? And let me give you a few bits of advice. These are bits of advice to the unrepentant or advice to drifters, advice to neglecters, advice to those who are drifting away to take heed. How do I take heed?

You just jot these down on the side. Number one, study your sins. Get a real deep understanding of your depravity. Preaching on sin is absolutely not popular in our world today. People want self esteem. They want to hear about their self image and they want a make over, but they don't want a heart make over. They just want to look hot for the guys

¹⁵ See 2 Timothy 2:15.

¹⁶ See John 17:17.

or hot for the girls. And they are not concerned about their heart makeover. And yet that is all that God is concerned about.

So you better study your sins. You have got to get a grasp on your need. Evaluate your situation. I mean, someone who is in real trouble financially is not going to be open at all to budget counseling and all sorts of things if they don't sense and feel how deeply in debt they are.

Well, that is what we have to understand is our debt before almighty God, that we are in an incredibly dangerous position. Our sins are not minor boo boos, right? And aren't we hearing churches all over Orlando and the world calling you little booger heads. Oh, what am I going to do with you?

Wait a minute. No. You have sinned. I have sinned against a holy God. I have broken willfully the laws of almighty God. Your rebellion against your husband is an abomination to almighty God. Your cruelty to your wife is an abomination to a holy God. Your disobedience and rebellion against your parents is an abomination against a holy God.

Do you realize saying, "Oh, my God," is, according to the law of God, a death penalty offense. Picking up sticks on the sabbath was a death penalty offense. Breaking the Lord's Day was a death penalty offense. We don't see it that way, but that is how God saw it.

Study your sins and then study God's wrath. Get a real understanding that God is not Santa sitting in a rocking chair a little bit senile, just sort of throwing gifts out of a sleigh somewhere. Almighty God is angry with the wicked every day. And one day he is coming back in flaming fire to execute judgment upon all and to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which ungodly sinners have done in an ungodly manner and of all the ungodly things and harsh things that ungodly sinners have spoken against him.

You have got to grasp your sin because you won't fly to the cross if you don't see that you have a deadly disease.

This deadly disease is growing in your heart. And this deadly disease will end up in your eternal damnation if you do not repent and believe the gospel. Study God's wrath.

Study the cross. Get an understanding of what Christ has done for you on the cross. Study the proper response to the cross. The proper response to the cross is not to walk an aisle and pray a prayer. The Bible says the proper response to the cross is repenting and believing the gospel, denying yourself, taking up your cross and following the Lord Jesus Christ. A wholehearted, total, 100% commitment and nothing less is the condition for conversion.

“You cannot be my disciple,” Jesus said, “Unless you are hating your mother, hating your father, hating your husband, hating your wife, hating your parents and hating your children.”

What he is saying is that your love for God has to be so intense, white burning hot, single minded that everybody else just sort of fades into the distance and from their perspective it looks like you hate them.

Certainly, we don't hate anybody. The Bible says even love your enemies. But he is using a hyperbole to emphasize the importance and the kind of love that we are to have for God.

Another important way to heed is apply the means of grace. Do you have a daily Bible study? Do you have a daily time where you sit down with your Bible open on your desk and begin to read and read?

I am not talking about pulling a tiny card out of a tiny box and reading half a verse. That is not devotions. I am talking about an hour, two hours, maybe three hours, maybe taking a day some month and just going off and just spend all day saturating your mind with the Word of God.

Do you do that? Do you have time in prayer? Or is it...

Do you realize the average preacher in America spends less than two minutes a day in prayer? And now what is really heart breaking is you have got these TV phonies telling people to sit in their bedroom and babble insanely for 15 minutes a day. So the time that should have been sent in deep, intelligent, thoughtful prayer is sitting there speaking in gibberish. Nowhere in the Bible does the Bible command that.

The Bible tells us we must give the most, the superlative, the most earnest heed to the things that we have heard, lest we drift away.

What about other things, the other means of grace, the small group? Do you realize attending small group... If you are not in small group faithfully every week you are drifting away. If you are not out evangelizing—maybe not on a Saturday morning—but actively talking to lost people during the week on a regular basis you are already drifting away. And you are in danger of damnation if you are not having fervent devotions, confessing yours sin to God, getting things right, reconciling with people. You are already drifting away.

That is why we have got to give not just a little bit of attention. We don't need to just simply open one little eye and kind of get an idea of what is going on around us. We need to have eyes wide open, a whole pot of coffee in our system, eyes buzzing. All right. I am totally involved here. Amen?

We must... It is absolutely necessary. It is not optional. You, without the means of grace, without fervent involvement heeding, you are already drifting. It is not that, well, you know, I haven't really been faithful in church. I haven't been really faithful in small groups. I don't really evangelize. But, boy, you know, I had better be careful of drifting one day.

No, you are already drifted. You have already drifted. That is how important this is. All you need to be damned is to drift, nothing else, but drift. That is all you need to do.

If you want to go to hell when you die, just keep doing nothing. You don't have to go murder anybody. You don't have to go rob a bank. You don't have to abort your baby. You don't have to do anything. Just carry on. Just sleep on. Go the way that you have been going the last year. Keep deceiving yourself. Keep arguing with yourself. Keep discounting the warnings of God. Just keep, oh, yeah, yeah.

Pastor Dave, thanks a lot, brother, yeah.

Just go right back to what you were doing and you will drift down lazy river into the pits of the damned.

You have to actively, aggressively, the Bible says, violently... Do you remember in *Pilgrim's Progress* when he went to the Interpreter's home the Interpreter said, "Now watch this"? And there was a beautiful door and there was beautiful angels all up around the door. And inside this beautiful palace people with peace and joy and there was a guy taking names out front. And in front of the door were stout and sturdy men and this one guy says, "Sign me up. I am getting in there." And he pulls out his sword and he commences hacking and swinging that sword with every fiber of his being and they beat him back and they wounded him and he aggressively, head down, started hacking and swinging until all of the enemy is laying and he went through that door victorious. That is the door to salvation.

We cannot just simply wander down an aisle, popping our gum saying, "Hey, guys, how are you doing. I am getting saved, man, cool."

That is godlessness.

True salvation is a pouring out of your heart before God, a mourning over your sin and a pleading for salvation and Satan will put in front of you and me every possible obstacle that you can imagine.

Beautiful women. Oh, you don't want to go that way. You want to go this way.

Money. Oh,[?] just a few Sundays, just maybe one year of Sundays and we will double your salary.

I mean, over and over and you have to pull your sword out and say, “I am getting through that door, man. You might as well give up now because I am not ever giving up.”

Amen.

The more earnest heed. The kingdom of God suffers violence, but he violent take it by force.¹⁷

It is hard to become a Christian. In fact, it is so hard Jesus said it is harder for a camel to go through the eye of a needle. In other words it is impossible. You need the saving work of God regenerating your heart, opening your mind, peeling back the scales of your eyes so that you can enter in and you can be saved.

These are warning passages. This is a warning sermon. We are warning neglectful professors, those who profess to know Christ, those who are false believers but are thoroughly convinced I am right with God. Don't you worry about me.

The next part of the verse says, “...to the things that we have heard.”¹⁸

Isn't that interesting? He says, “We have got to give more earnest heed to the things we have heard? Well, what have we heard? That goes back to chapter one. Jesus Christ, the gospel message, the message of Jesus Christ, the message of salvation in Christ, the Sermon on the Mount, the parables of Christ, that is what we are to give the most earnest heed to.

It doesn't say give more earnest heed to the culture that you are in so that you can be innovative.

Do you realize that the seeker churches and emergent churches thing that innovation is the cure to apostasy. But the preacher tells us in Hebrews the cure to apostasy is go back to the Bible.

So what are we stealing the Bible from people for and replacing the Bible with the purpose driven church or the prayer of Jabez or some guy's trip to hell or just all of this subjective drivel?

And what that will do is it will simply cause the apostasy to grow worse and worse. Evil men and seducers will grow worse and worse.

If you think your church is struggling now and you are preaching the Word of God and you think it is struggling now, I will tell you how to kill it. Stop preaching the Word of God and start being innovative.

The cure to apostasy is give absolute earnest heed to the teachings of Jesus Christ, not to

¹⁷ See Matthew 11:12.

¹⁸ Hebrews 2:1.

the wicked blasphemies of the Jehovah's Witnesses, not to the evil blasphemies of the Mormons, these new revelations, not to the wicked and evil blasphemies of the Seventh Day Adventist cult leader Ellen White who came up with new revelations. The cure to apostasy is not innovation. The cure to apostasy is give earnest heed, the most earnest heed to the things that we have already heard. We don't need any modern day prophets telling us new revelations. We don't need some guy getting up and telling about his dream that he had the other night. We don't need someone saying, "Well, I got a message in tongues."

We are not even paying enough attention to what we have already received. And that is what we have got to give all of our attention to.

And why is it that these churches that claim to be moving in the Spirit, filled in the Spirit, blah, blah and they have got one after the other clown rambling on about some new revelation and they are biblically illiterate?

[?] a few weeks back I met a real nice couple, but they go to one of these sensationalist churches. And as we started showing them things from the Bible, oh, like wow. This is great. This is great. Let me go get my Bible.

Ran got their Bible and I... now where are you?

I said, "We are in Matthew."

"Where is Matthew?"

Am I telling the truth?

I said, "Hang on a second. How long have you been at that sensationalist church?"

"Oh, about..." What? Was it eight years? Something like that. And you don't know where Matthew is in your Bible? There is something radically wrong with that and that is simply a satanic strategy to deviate from the Word of God because it is the Word of God that brings conviction. It is the Word of God that brings cleansing. It is the Word of God that brings sanctification. It is the Word of God that brings rebuke. It is the Word of God and the Word of God alone that can bring us life according to James. It is the preaching of the Word of God that has given us the righteousness of Christ. This is the way that James says it.

So we find we must... it is absolutely essential, non negotiable, not optional. We absolutely must... it is necessary to give the absolute highest priority of attention to the teaching of Jesus Christ, the Word of God. Anything else is an evil substitute.

Well, what are the kinds of...

Well, let's say that we just become a purpose driven church or an Emergent church and we get our hair all spiked up and dyed on top and poke a bone through our nose and come to church in grass skirts and like we are really feeling it, man. I am experiencing God. And we are all sitting around a candle, you know, meditating.

The Bible says here is what will result. You will drift away. You will drift away. You will drift away from the truth of God. You have gone after lies and fables of men. You have not gone after the clear sound teaching of the Word of God. You have drifted away.

And the danger is drifting away to damnation. It is an interesting word, "drift." It was used a lot in the Greek of this day. And one example is this word for "drift" is used for a ring just sort of slipping off. Maybe, you know, you are... you have got... washed your hands and you put some hand cream on and you put your hand down and it just sort of slips off your finger. It is unintentional. It is unnoticed. It is easy.

Do you realize the majority of people are not drawn away from Christ into apostasy through argumentation, well reasoned arguments, superior evidence. A person doesn't sit down and say, "Ok, let me look at all of the evidence. I thought Jesus rose from the dead. Now notice all the evidence against the bodily resurrection. Wow, this overwhelming. I am going to have to become an apostate." It doesn't work that way.

The evidence is all for the Bible, all for the deity of Christ, all for the bodily resurrection of Christ. The majority of people who apostatize just simply drift. Their ring just slips off and where did that go? Where did the deity of Christ go? Didn't we used to believe in the trinity around here? Didn't we used to believe in holy living around here? Didn't we used to believe that homosexuality was an abomination to God and that God judged it? Didn't I hear a preacher like maybe 20, 30 years ago say that somewhere at some meeting and he got ran off the stage or something? I don't know.

That is where we live today. It is just this drifting. We are just slipping away.

Another way that this word is used of a ship that is trying to go into a safe harbor to escape the rocky shoals and because of careless sailors—not that the sailor intentionally says, "Hi, ho Silver. We are going to go right into that coral reef and rip the hull right off of our ship." No. He just sits down in the hold having a cup of coffee or a little snooze and the ship just sort of... You know, there is no motor running. You know this... he is just sort of drifts with the current and the tide and the winds and then when the guy comes up out of the hold, rubs his eyes, he realizes that jolt that we felt was we have no run aground and the bottom of our boat is being ripped off and now we are at the mercy of the sharks.

Another way that this word is used for drifting is a ship has found the safe harbor. The sailor carelessly loops the tie rope around the piling. And with the gentle rocking and the drifting and the breeze, just a nice comfortable breeze. I mean, if you were on the dock you would say, "Oh, this is so nice out here." And that boat just tug, tug, tug... just over and over tugging on that mooring rope until one of the loops comes loose. Then it tugs

and the boat goes up and down and tugs a little bit more and then another loop comes loose. And then pretty soon the rope just drops into the water and as the ship just sails out to its disaster...

William Newell tells a story that he was driving back from a meeting and had to go past Niagara Falls. This was many years ago, probably 50 years ago. And he said he went to Niagara Falls. And he went out and he noticed there was this big yacht that was lodged on the rocks right on the edge of Niagara Falls.

And he asked the guard, "What is this all about? You know, how did that happen?"

He said, "Well, that is an interesting story. That yacht was owned by a wealthy man and he went out way up stream. He went out with all of his friends just to have a great day. We are going to sail around and then we are going to stop and have lunch."

And when the story was told when they stopped to have lunch the sailor didn't tie that knot tight and check it and that boat just drifted eventually to the edge of Niagara Falls eventually to go all the way over. That is what I am saying.

The Word of God teaches us that we have to give earnest, zealous heed to the things which we have heard, the teaching of Christ. It is settled. We have heard, not that we are hearing or we are going to hear. It is settled. It is a done deal. What Christ has told us is all we need lest we drift away.

What currents are drifting you away? Why are you not checking your mooring ropes? Is your ring so meaningless to you that you just don't really matter that it is real loose and you have got oil on your finger and it just... oh, a couple of times. Oh, that almost slipped off. Oh, well.

What I am saying is: Pay attention or you will pay the price. All that is necessary for you to be damned is nothing but drift. Just don't do anything. Don't fervently read your Bible. Don't fervently evangelize. Don't gouge sin out of your life. Play with it. Dabble with it. Put it in your mouth and roll it around.

Oh, I would never swallow it. I am just tasting it, you know.

You know, you are tobacco chewing Christians. You know, you are just kind of dabbling in the sin and then you are not paying attention and then down it goes, down the gullet.

Lest we drift away.

"For if the word spoken through angels..."¹⁹

Now what the author is doing is he is giving a proof. He has given us the warning, number one. Now he is giving us the proof. The proof is that God punished sinners in the

¹⁹ Hebrews 2:2.

Old Testament severely. God punished Old Testament sinners severely. He said, “If the word spoken through angels...”²⁰ and that is a reference to the giving of the law to Moses.

In fact, there’s a number of Scriptures that speak of that. Look back in Acts chapter seven. I want you to see this word spoken through angels is. The word spoken through angels is not some angelic message that you got over your radio or while you were driving down the road he appeared on your dash board. The message given through angels, notice it is through angels is spoken of in Acts chapter seven.

Stephen, they are about to stone him to death because he was a bold evangelist, holy living, stood for righteousness, things that preachers don’t do anymore. And he rebuked them in the name of the Lord as he said in verse 51, “You stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears!”²¹

They are standing there with softball sized rocks, toss them up and down in their hands and he is fearlessly pointing his finger at them, “You stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears! You always resist the Holy Spirit.”²²

What’s wrong with you, Stephen?

I’ll tell you what is wrong with him. He is full of the Spirit of God. This is what a Spirit filled believer really looks like. He is not rolling down the aisle, falling backwards and barking in the Spirit. He might be barking out the Word of God in the Spirit.

You stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears! You always resist the Holy Spirit; as your fathers did, so do you. Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who foretold the coming of the Just One, of whom you now have become the betrayers and murderers, who have received the law by the direction of angels and have not kept it.²³

I am not interested at all in someone claiming that they had a conversation with an angel. They are not even obeying the Word of God. Why would God come and give them an angelic message? They are just going to trample that in the mud, too.

My wife had a conversation with a wicked lady last night on the phone from one of these psychotic churches. I don’t even know the name for it. It is just insanity. It is theological insanity. And my wife was trying to get her to open her Bible and look in the Bible and open the Bible and see what the Bible says.

“Oh, but I traveled with Benny Hinn and I like Benny Hinn.”

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ Acts 7:51.

²² Ibid.

²³ Acts 7:51-53.

Are you mad? How can you not see that this man is demon possessed? He is a traitor. He is a murderer of the Messiah.

And you are... just droves, tens of thousands. Let's follow him. Oh, man, let's get a bus full of people and we will go listen to that nut case.

Well, the Bible says they received the law of God through angels, that God gave the 10 Commandments to Moses, but he mediated it through angels.

He says, "For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast..."²⁴

The law of God is absolutely binding. It is steadfast. It is rock solid. It is the inspired Word of God.

If you need a Scripture supporting the inspiration of the Bible, there it is. The Old Testament was given by almighty God through angels and it is steadfast. This is something neglectors do, verse 2a on your notes. Drifters neglect God's self revelation in the Old Testament. They just don't care about the laws of God. They just don't care about the stories in the Bible. They don't care about the flood. Do you realize that?

Look what it says in verse two a little bit more. "Every transgression received a righteous, fair, just reward."²⁵

In the Old Testament—and this is the preacher's point—he is saying, "Listen to me. You had better listen to Christ because those who didn't listen to the Old Testament—and you guys are worked up about angels. All right the Old Testament was mediated through angels and in the Old Testament if you did not listen to the law of God mediated through angels, every sin, every transgression, every disobedience received a just punishment.

He uses two interesting words, transgression and disobedience. You see, there are a lot of words. This would be an interesting study for you to do. Look at all the different ways sin is spoken of: lawlessness, godlessness, et cetera, iniquity, on and on. There are many, many words for sin. And he mentions two here: transgression and disobedience.

Transgression has to do with over stepping the bounds that are established by the law of God, going beyond what is written. It is like trespassing a transgression. And this transgression was the action whereas the disobedience was the attitude. You see, you won't transgress if you don't already have the heart of disobedience.

So what the Bible is saying is both inwardly and outwardly these transgressions which are fueled by disobedience, a refusal to submit. That is what disobedience is. It is a refusal to submit to God given authority.

²⁴ Hebrews 2:2.

²⁵ See Hebrews 2:2.

If your husband says, “Honey, we need to go to that Bible believing church,” you say, “Well, honey, I don’t really understand, but I am going to obey and I am going to obey joyfully.”

That is what it means to submit. If you say, “No. I am not going to a Bible believing church,” then you are disobedient. And in the Old Testament this kind of disobedience received a just punishment.

The word “reward” here means a punishment, a righteous and fair punishment. And I will tell you what. The word for “just” is not the normal word δικαιοσ (dik’-ah-yos) which means righteousness which is normally translated just or justice or righteous or to justify. This is an interesting word. It means fair. And what that means is that on judgment day when the wicked stand before almighty God and he lays out their sins in front of them and he says, “You did this, you did that and you did the next thing,” and he brings forth all of the evidence, though the court is in session and the lawyer presenting the damning evidence against you brings forth finger prints and DNA and witnesses and all of your sins are laid in front of you, when all is said and done and God lifts his gavel and says, “Guilty as charged. The penalty is damnation in hell,” the only conclusion you will be able to come to is, “Yes, almighty God. All I can say is what you have done is fair.”

No one is going to be able to say, “Oh, no. Hold on a second.”

Every mouth will be stopped. There will be a big angel with a big roll of duct tape right there. Zip. Right there. And the only thing you will be able to say is, “Yes. Your judgment is right.”

God will be vindicated and he is saying that every disobedience, every transgression of the Old Testament received a righteous punishment and what that teaches us is that God cares about how his laws are obeyed or disobeyed.

If you are disobedient to the law of God you can expect the punishments of God.

Now that is really uncomfortable for this greasy grace that we have nowadays, doesn’t it? Boy, they just want you to be able to do anything you want to do and come to church and, oh, you will have some great bagels and you will... we have actually hired a juggling clown, you know. And, you know, we are training some dogs to walk on balls across the front of the church. You know, and, boy, when that happens our attendance is going to go up by at least 200 people.

And as a result people are going and the Word of God is being stolen from them and the pastor, instead of getting back to the things which we have heard, verse one, is trying to tell one stupid joke after another stupid joke, trying to be a psychological counselor instead of being a prophet of God.

You know, I am sorry. I am not a psychological counselor because God has not called me to do that. God has called me to open the Word of God and call down the thunders of

Sinai, the lightning of God's wrath upon those who refuse to repent and then display the cross, the grace of God, the love of God, the mercy of God, the forgiveness of God to those who will repent and believe the gospel. Very simple.

Well, that is what we hear around here a lot. Amen. Just settle in. That is what you are going to here next week, the week after. I am not trying to be innovative. I don't read books. Sometimes I think, you know, when I am ordering a book I almost want it to be from the 1700s or something. You know, I am just real nervous about modern books unless I know who the author is.

And every disobedience... you see, our God is the God who judges sin. We find numerous examples in the Old Testament of the wrath of God. We see the flood that God opens the windows of heaven and breaks up the fountains of the deep and billions of gallons of water rise and rise and rise. And it wasn't a little local flood. This was a flood as though God took this planet and plunged it under a bucket of water and held it there till every unrepentant sinner was dead.

The Bible says of this they are willfully ignorant. People just don't want to believe that.

Oh, this flood thing...

Well, I will tell you what. You will find out. The Word of God is absolutely true. And every sin...

We find God's attitude toward rebellion against spiritual authority in Korah. You will remember Korah gathered together some of the leaders of Israel and went against Moses and God vindicated Moses. Moses said to God, "God, do you see what is happening?"

And God killed all of them. We see the same thing in Genesis 19 when the sodomites surrounded the house of Lot. "Give us the men who came in. We want to have sex with them."

And the angels struck them with blindness and in the midst of their sin, they are insane, they didn't say, "Hold on a second. I am blind. What do I do now?"

Their rage and their lust and their fury and their passions drove them to practically break the door down.

The Bible says, "Till they just wearied themselves trying to break the door down."

And God brought Lot and his family out and rained down fire from heaven.

This is the Bible that we are reading. And we have got to get back to the Word of God and get away from all the words of men that are trying to tell you how to get more bodies in a building and somehow make it sound spiritual.

These guys are wolves and deceivers. They are thieves. They are stealing God's Word. They are disobedient. They are proud. They are covetous. They are trying to see how much money they can get. But understand this is a warning not to those wicked TV preachers right now. This is a warning to you if you are drifting away, if you are not giving more earnest heed.

And I want to say it again. If you are not passionately using the means of grace, if you are not fervently in prayer, if you are not diligently in daily Bible study, if you are not constantly meeting with the brothers for accountability and encouragement so much the more as you see the day approaching, you have already drifted away.

The Bible says in verse three then, the final point there, logic. Here is the logic. The warning is: Wake up. You are headed for hell. The proof is: God punished them in the Old Testament for disobedience. The logic is: God is going to punish them in the New Testament even more severely.

He says in verse three, "How shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation?"²⁶

This is worded as a question, but you know what the obvious answer is? There is no escape. He could have said, "You will not escape if you neglect so great a salvation." But he asks it as a question because he wants you to think for a minute.

All right. Hang on a second. Let's say that I just drift. Let's say that I neglect and I, you know, getting involved in a church and spending my time and reading my Bible and, man, I could be golfing and fishing and bike riding and working over time and all this other stuff. How about if I just sort of drift away?

Let's follow that through. How are you going to escape if you neglect so great a salvation? What escape plan do you have? What have you dreamed up that somehow the warnings of God do not apply to you? What is your plan that you have got [?] oh here is my plan, Pastor Dave. When I get to heaven I am going to stand before Jesus and I will explain to him.

Wow, yeah, ok. You will explain what? That you are a wicked sinner, that you persisted in disobeying his laws? You are going stand before the king of the universe and think you are going to be able to out argue him?

Maybe Johnny Cochran can be your lawyer when you get up there. Would that help at all? Not in the slightest.

You see, I mean I hope you are seeing the point of the Word of God. You know, the point of the Word of God is there is no escape. Jesus said to the Pharisees, "Brood of Vipers. How will you escape the damnation of hell?" He is asking them a question with an obvious answer. There is no escape. You have no other escape. There is no other safe

²⁶ Hebrews 2:3.

harbor. If you drift away from Jesus Christ it will not be just a nice smooth little sail to the next harbor.

Oh, maybe we will try the Buddha harbor.

I am telling you the Buddha harbor is a bottomless pit.

You sail into the Mohammed harbor. They will slit your throat and chop your head off.

You sail into the new age harbor and you have nothing but deception.

You see, what I am saying is there is no escape from the wrath of God outside of Jesus Christ. How are you going to escape? You can't escape. There is no escape.

I was trying to picture in my mind what it would be like to be... it was really strange. I woke up in the middle of the night and, you know, I don't know, but my wife was saying I was just like, you know... and I had this picture in my mind. I had been thinking about it before I went to bed what it would be like to be somewhere where there is no escape.

And I started thinking of these cave tunnel guys, you know, they will go down in these real elaborate... what are those guys called? Idiots, yeah, that's good.

But they are just recreational... they put a rope over their shoulder and they lower themselves down into a hole and they squeeze through this and they squeeze through that and they squeeze through the next thing and they are just doing it for fun. I thought, man, you know, what if like their way out collapsed in? And that's it. And the only way out of that underground cavern which has now funneled them down... and this is what I woke up. It was like I was encased in a tunnel and it was just getting tighter and tighter and I couldn't...

I am like I can't move. I can't get out of here and I can't go back. Now I am stuck. I couldn't go forward. I couldn't go back and it is caved in behind me. It is caved in in front of me.

There is escape outside of Christ. Why not use your mind, take heed and put yourself in some of those scenarios to give yourself a feeling of what God has delivered you from?

God almighty has provided the only means of escape through his Son Jesus Christ.

Drifters cannot escape the wrath of God.

In fact, I am going to show you an interesting verse. Look over to 1 Peter and in chapter four. What we are talking about here is the more serious judgment upon New Testament people in the New Testament era because we have a greater revelation. He says in verse 17.

For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God? Now "If the righteous one is scarcely saved, Where will the ungodly and the sinner appear?"²⁷

You see, what he is saying is: We have been given incredible light in the New Testament. Jesus is the final and full self revelation of God.

“Woe to you Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven? No, you will be cast down to hell,”²⁸ Jesus said. It will be more tolerable on the day of judgment for Sodom and Gomorrhah than for the cities where Jesus ministered because more light rejected, more judgment expected.

You have been sitting in this church, some of you for months. Some of you for years, drifting, neglecting. How will you escape if you continue neglecting? You have already drifted. Does it give you some sense of... well, I am... at least I show up in church. You know, I am going to say that to God. At least I put up with that guy's ranting and raving for like an hour every Sunday. Surely that is good for like a few years in heaven or something.

And God says, “No. I will tell you what. That is going to make hell hotter for you because you have heard word by word clearly, week after week, the will of God for you.”

Look back in Hebrews chapter two verse one.

“Therefore we must...”²⁹ It is not optional. Give the most earnest vehement heed to the teachings of Jesus Christ lest we drift away to our damnation for the Word, the law of God, the Old Testament mediated through angels proved absolutely steadfast. And when you sinned in the Old Testament, you suffered the wrath of God. How will you escape?

What is going through your mind right now? You might think, man, how can I escape this church?

The question I think you need to be asking is: How are you going to escape the wrath of God? If you neglect so great a salvation, now watch this, “which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord.”³⁰

You remember Jesus Christ came and as soon as he stepped on to the scene with his preaching his message was, “Repent, the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” The kingdom of heaven, the rule of Christ, the lordship of Christ is at hand. The kingdom of heaven means the absolute obedience of the subjects to the king. The kingdom of heaven is at hand. Repent and believe the gospel.

²⁷ 1 Peter 4:17-18.

²⁸ See Matthew 11:23, Luke 10:15.

²⁹ Hebrews 2:1.

³⁰ Hebrews 2:3.

At the very beginning that is what Jesus preached. And all through his ministry he preached it. All three years on earth he said, “Unless you repent you will perish. There is more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over 99 who have no need of repentance.” Over and over, all of the parables, the stories, the description of the kingdom, the explanation of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus is hammering home. If you want to be saved you must turn from your sin not with mere externalism. There must be a heart holiness. There must be a repentance. There must be a regeneration and there must be a passionate obedience to Christ from your heart. If that is not there, you are not blessed, you are not born again and you will drop into hell when you die.

Over and over it began at the first to be spoken by... and he calls him the Lord, the Lord Jesus Christ, God the Son.

But then what else happened on your notes? 3a, drifters cannot escape the wrath of God. 3b, drifters neglect the salvation of God.

If you neglect the only salvation that God is offering there is no alternative. You can't escape. And 3c, drifters neglect the sure Word of God. Notice what it says, “And was confirmed to us by those who heard Him.”³¹

While Jesus was on earth he was followed by his 12 disciples for three full years who heard every single word that he said. When he preached they were there listening and Jesus told them, “Now, after my resurrection, I am going to send the Spirit of God and he, the Spirit of God, will bring to your remembrance all the things that I have told you.”

So we have in our hand the eyewitness record, the historical record written by eyewitnesses who lived with Jesus and their mind was supernaturally empowered by the Holy Spirit through what is called the doctrine of inspiration so that as they wrote God brought to memory everything they needed to write down.

And then that was confirmed to us. What he is saying is, “You guys weren't here.”

If Paul is the author of the book of Hebrews Paul didn't live with Jesus for three years. So it would be proper for him to put himself in the us. But notice it says the word was confirmed. It was validated. It was made absolutely unquestionable by the apostolic testimony.

When the apostles said to Paul, “This is what we saw and what we heard,” Paul is like, “Yeah, confirmed. Absolutely.”

And as that testimony was written down and the disciples went and evangelized, do you realize there is a possibility that he is writing to believers in Rome. We are not certain about that. But here you have got the gospel through evangelism going all the way from

³¹ Hebrews 2:3.

Jerusalem all the way over to Rome. How did that happen? They didn't have email. They had to get on the back of a donkey or something and go and evangelize.

You see, there is the necessity of evangelism. They wouldn't have known that. And it is confirmed by those who heard him.

We are talking about eye witness and ear witness testimony, those who actually lived with Jesus that, yes...

You realize the apostolic testimony is one of the miracles of the Bible. These men gave their life for their testimony. If they thought that it was false, what would they get out of it? If they were just making up a story because maybe there was an interest in like mythological stories and they thought they might be able to sell some books, what did they get out of making up this mythological story? They got hatred. Jesus said, "You will be hated of all men for my name's sake." They got persecuted. They lost their houses. They lost their families. Eventually they lost their lives.

You are not going to die for what you know is a lie. The Muslims who flew the planes into the twin towers died for a lie, but they thought it was true. You are not going to die for what you know is a lie. And all the disciples went all over and not just the 12 disciples, the apostles, but those who others were willing for centuries and even today China, Muslim terrorist countries where they are closed. They are hostile to the gospel in North Korea. All over South America there are times where people who follow Christ are murdered for their faith.

So great miracle. We have the confirmed Word. And then God steps up in verse four to the witness stand. God steps up to the witness stand. This is legal terminology.

"God also bearing witness..."³²

A term in the first century used in law courts. It is as though God says, "Now, you call me to the witness box. Call me."

All right, almighty God, please step in the witness box. All right.

He says in verse four, "God also bearing witness..."³³

Bearing witness to what? Bearing witness to the apostolic testimony. He is not bearing witness to false TV preachers' testimony. The TV preachers do not match apostolic testimony. Their theology and the theology of the Bible are in diametric opposition. God is not confirming them and confirming the apostles. That would be insanity. You would have God speaking out of both sides of his mouth. You would have God saying through the apostles, "There is one God in three persons, blessed trinity." And then you would

³² Hebrews 2:4.

³³ Ibid.

T.J. Jakes saying there is no such thing as the trinity. And God is going to confirm both of them?

So what you have here is the confirming miracles of God. Look at this in verse four.

“God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit.”³⁴

God did four things to validate the authors of the New Testament. The New Testament is written. It is done. We need no one else to come along and validate anybody else’s testimony. It is done. It is a done deal. And this is one of the strongest verses you can find to show that not only is it not needed and not only are these miraculous signs and wonders not needed, they are simply not given.

What was their purpose? You read it in your Bible, Hebrews 2:4. They were given to confirm the apostolic testimony of those who heard him and confirmed the Word to us.

So what do we do with the Word of God? Do we believe it or are do we just hang on with some wacky experience that we had and, well, you just don’t understand. I fell over backwards and couldn’t stop laughing and my sides were splitting and it felt like warm honey was falling all over my body. That had to be God.

No, I don’t see that at all. I think that had to be Satan deceiving you to get you into a false teaching church where you are not studying the Word of God. You are not gentle with your wife. You are not submissive to your husband. You are not obedient to your parents. You are not submissive to the law. You are biblically illiterate. You are not fervently evangelistic. How could that be a work of God?

So we find on your notes, then, drifters neglect the very testimony of God.

Paul the apostle said the sings of an apostle... let me show you that. Go back to 2 Corinthians and we will end with this, 2 Corinthians chapter 12. Paul is speaking and they were discounting his testimony and he says in 2 Corinthians chapter 12, look at verse 11. “I have become a fool in boasting; you have compelled me.”³⁵

Have you ever had a situation like that? You just... it is like, look, I don’t want to go there. But they keep pressing you and, yeah, ok, look. Here is the deal.

All right.

“I have become a fool in boasting; you have compelled me. For I ought to have been commended by you.”³⁶

³⁴ Hebrews 2:4.

³⁵ 2 Corinthians 12:11.

³⁶ Ibid.

The very church that he had planted was the fruit of his labor. That very church should have been the one saying, “No, Paul is an apostle. He is the representative of almighty God.” But they had allowed charismatic people to come in. The book of 1 Corinthians calls them pneumatics. It is the same thing. Allowed these charismatic, pneumatic people to come into the Church and now, oh, God spoke to me this morning while I was having a cup of coffee. A little angel possessed my dog and he jumped up on the seat and said... and I interpreted that.

Give me a break now.

And I tell you. That may sound wacky and crazy. I have heard far worse. You go out and witness some time with me. Amen?

And he says, “The very church should have been saying yes.”

But he says... notice what it says in verse 11. “For I ought to have been commended by you; for in nothing was I behind the most eminent apostles, though I am nothing.”³⁷

Verse 12, here it is. “Truly the signs of an apostle were accomplished among you with all perseverance, in signs and wonders and mighty deeds.”³⁸

That is what the signs were for, to point as a sign post. This is an apostle of God. He is sent by God, ἀποστέλλω (ap-os-tel'-lo) one sent from God with a message. And so hear him.

Go back, then, to Hebrews chapter two. We wrap it up then.

End of verse four, “And gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will?”³⁹

This is one of the phrases I think further supports Pauline authorship, very good parallel to 1 Corinthians about the gifts, 1 Corinthians 12 being according to his own sovereign will.

But let me ask this, then. We have looked at the warning. Wake up, you are headed for hell. The proof is that God punished Old Testament sinners severely. The logic is God will punish New Testament sinners more severely.

I want to ask you: Are you continuing to drift? Are you going to continue not to go to small group, not to have your daily devotions, not to dig sin out of your life, not to love the brothers, not to spend time with the brothers, not to evangelize, not... are you just going to continue drifting? If you do, then take the warning from God. I have, in a very fumbling way, have tried to present the warning of God from the Scripture, the pages of

³⁷ Ibid.

³⁸ 2 Corinthians 12:12.

³⁹ Hebrews 12:4.

Scripture to you. Will you heed that warning? Because if you don't all you face is a certain expectation of fiery judgment. The Bible says God will devour the adversaries.

With every head bowed and every eye closed.

Father, as we come before you this morning we ask that you would please pierce the hearts of those who are still hard in their sins, those who are pressing on in their rebellion, those who are continuing to drift.

Spirit of God, we know that all of the preaching in the world is useless without you. And so now I rely upon you, Spirit of God. Please give regeneration. Give repentance. Give faith. Open the eyes.

With your heads bowed and your eyes closed the Bible says, "Today if you will hear his voice as the Holy Spirit says, today if you will hear his voice do not harden your hearts."

In Jesus' name. Amen.