

IMPORTANT POINTS FROM THIS MORNING

“Backsliding” is solely an Old Testament term. (Hebrew: mesh-oo-baw’) Means to deliberately turn away. It refers to the breaking of a covenant. It should be a point of no return in a broken relationship; but in each case, the term is used, God is offering to reconcile.

In the New Testament, we don’t even find the word “backslide” in the Greek, instead, we find a new warning: WE MUST **LISTEN** VERY CAREFULLY TO THE TRUTH WE HAVE HEARD, OR WE MAY **DRIFT** AWAY FROM IT. (Heb. 2:1-5)

Where the term “backslide” refers to an intentional act of turning; **the word “drift” (par-ar-hroo-eh’-o) is almost unintentional.** It means to flow by, carelessly pass, to miss, or to slip away. It is more a case of stubborn negligence.

Here is how the Living Bible paraphrases:

Hebrews 2

1. So we must **listen** very carefully to the truths we have heard, or we may **drift** away from them.
2. For since the messages from angels [messengers of the Gospel] have always proved true and people have always been punished for disobeying them,
3. what makes us think that we can escape if we are **indifferent to this great salvation** announced by the Lord Jesus himself, and passed on to us by those who heard him speak?
4. God always has **shown** us that these messages are **true by signs and wonders** and various **miracles** and by giving **certain special abilities** from the **Holy Spirit** to those **who believe**; yes, God has assigned such gifts to each of us.

THE DANGER OF DRIFT

We find Paul speaking of the ultimate outcome:

1 Tim. 1:19-20

19. **having faith and a good conscience**, which **some having rejected**, concerning the faith have **suffered shipwreck**,
20. of whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I delivered to Satan that they may learn not to **blaspheme**.

Word study:

“Shipwreck” (now-ag-eh’-o) *stranded*

“Blaspheme” (blas-fay-meh’-o) *to vilify, speak impiously, revile, rail on*

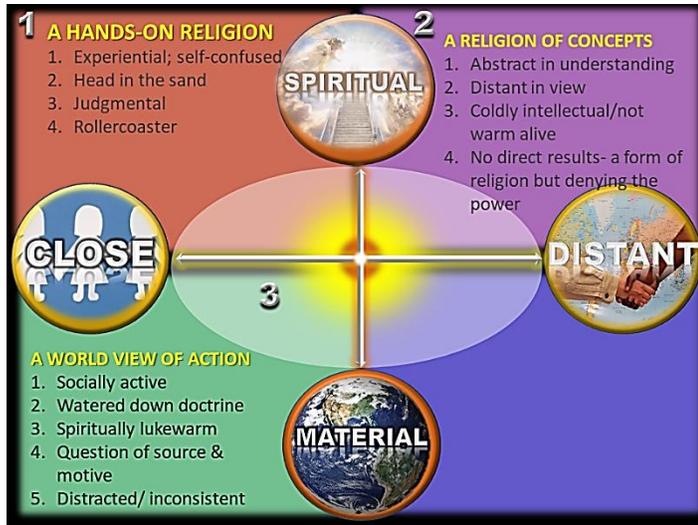
“rejected” (ap-o-theh’-om-ahee) *to shove, push off, thrust away, put away*

There appears to be an unintentional component, sheer carelessness, and an intentional component to drifting, a deliberate shoving away. In either case, there is a stubborn refusal to adhere to what God has said, proven, or equipped us for.

DISCUSSION:

1. WHY DO YOU THINK THERE IS AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT TERM USED BETWEEN THE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS?
2. WHAT ABOUT PEOPLE WHO PROFESS A BELIEF BUT FALL INTO OBVIOUSLY UNGODLY BEHAVIOR?
3. WHY DO PEOPLE DRIFT?

A REVIEW OF DRIFT



Drift 1 involves those who understand life through experience and desire to experience God in a tangible way.

Drift 2 are those who are committed to the existence of God, but look for the principles and concepts.

Drift 3 are those who wish to live up to what God stands for.

THE FLIP SIDE OF DRIFT

If we look at the areas of drift, we find that they are also areas of legitimate Godly strength.

DISCUSSION

1. WOULD YOU SUGGEST ANY OTHER STRENGTHS OR SPIRITUAL GIFTS FOR THESE AREAS?
2. IF THEY ARE STRENGTHS, HOW CAN THEY ALSO BE AREAS OF DRIFT?
3. WHAT IMPLICATIONS DO YOU SEE IN THE CONNECTION BETWEEN DRIFTS AND STRENGTHS?

