

TWO MAJOR POINTS

Save discussion to the end, write down thoughts and comments for end.

The 2 major points.

CLARIFICATION #1: SHIPWRECK & DRIFT

- Revisiting the term, “backsliding”, the idea of the legal covenant.

Genesis 15

9. So He said to him, "Bring Me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old female goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove, and a young pigeon."

10. Then he brought all these to Him and cut them in two, down the middle, and placed each piece opposite the other; but he did not cut the birds in two.

... [\[Go to online manuscript. See a commentary on the full passage\]](#)...

17. And it came to pass, when the sun went down and it was dark, that behold, there was a smoking oven and a burning torch that passed between those pieces.

- The New Testament, a different relationship, but still 3 ways to “shipwreck” one’s faith.

Hebrews 10

12. But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God,

...

14. For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.

15. And the Holy Spirit also witnesses to us; for after He had said before,

16. "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds I will write them." (Promised back in Jeremiah 31:33, but not then in effect.)

#1 Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit

Mark 3

28. "Assuredly, I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the sons of men, and whatever blasphemies they may utter;

29. "but he who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is subject to eternal condemnation."

#2 Looking back

Luke 9

62. But Jesus said to him, "No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."

#3 Drifting

1 Tim 1

18. This charge I commit to you, son Timothy, according to the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them **you may wage the good warfare**,

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.

- The original Greek “ap-o-theh’-om-ahee” also means *to thrust away, to shove, or push off, to cast away*.

- 2 big implications

CLARIFICATION #2: PERFECTION & “HITTING THE MARK”

Do we never experience perfection in this life?

A strange dynamic if we believe that.

A question of failure versus a question of success.

There is grace in salvation; but there is power in sanctification.

~Oswald Chambers~

When we pray, asking God to sanctify us, are we prepared to measure up to what that really means? We take the word *sanctification* much too lightly. Are we prepared to pay the cost of sanctification? The cost will be a deep restriction of all our earthly concerns, and an extensive cultivation of all our godly concerns. Sanctification means to be intensely focused on God's point of view. It means to secure and to keep all the strength of our body, soul, and spirit for God's purpose alone. Are we really prepared for God to perform in us everything for which He separated us? And after He has done His work, are we then prepared to separate ourselves to God just as Jesus did? “For their sakes I sanctify Myself...” ([John 17:19](#)). The reason some of us have not entered into the experience of sanctification is that we have not realized the meaning of sanctification from God's perspective. Sanctification means being made one with Jesus so that the nature that controlled Him will control us. Are we really prepared for what that will cost? It will cost absolutely everything in us which is not of God.

Are we prepared to be caught up into the full meaning of Paul's prayer in this verse? Are we prepared to say, “Lord, make me, a sinner saved by grace, as holy as You can”? Jesus prayed that we might be one with Him, just as He is one with the Father (see [John 17:21-23](#)). The resounding evidence of the Holy Spirit in a person's life is the unmistakable family likeness to Jesus Christ, and the freedom from everything which is not like Him. Are we prepared to set ourselves apart for the Holy Spirit's work in us?

DISCUSSION

- Why is drifting not accidental?
- What are the implications of that?
- Can you lose your salvation? Why is that the wrong question?
- What is sanctification?
- How does that fit in the quest for a centered life in Christ that hits the mark?