"Lest We Drift Away"
Hebrews 2:1-3

Introduction:

A. Hebrews were in danger of "drifting away" — of neglecting their salvation.
   1. "Drifting" way from "great salvation" toward Judaism.
   2. "Drifting" or flowing with the tide.
   3. "Drifting" rather than positive decision to leave truth.

B. Hebrew letter encourages them to continue in the faith.
   1. Reminded of the seriousness of disobedience. (2:2-4; 10:28,29)
   2. Reminded to be faithful to the end. (6:9-12; 10:35-39)

C. Hebrew writer points to two areas of neglect contributing to their drift.
   1. Neglecting the learning process.
   2. Neglecting the assembling of themselves together.

Discussion:

I. Neglect Of The Word Contributes To Drifting Away. (5:11-6:6)
   A. Hebrews were drifting backward instead of pressing forward in knowledge.
      1. Had drifted into spiritual immaturity.
         a. Had become dull of hearing. (5:11)
         b. Had become such as need milk (5:12)
         c. Had become unskilled in the word. (5:13)
      2. Were in danger of drifting into complete apostasy. (6:1-6)
   B. We are either going on to perfection or we are drifting.
      1. We must continue to grow in the word. (1 Pet 2:1-2)
         a. Through individual study.
      2. We must use knowledge and skill our we will lose them.
   C. When we neglect and drift we are often pulled in the direction of things that appeal to our fleshly side.
      1. Apathy and indifference.
      2. Worldliness and immorality.
      3. False religions and philosophies.
         a. Humanism.
         b. Denominationalism.
         c. Social gospel.

II. Neglect of Assembling Contributes To Drifting Away. (10:19-31)
   A. Assembling designed to strengthen both knowledge of word and will to do it.
      1. By the teaching done in the assembly.
      2. By the admonishing done in the assembly.
      3. By the worship done together.
         a. If worshipping God only object of assembly could do it at home.
         b. Worshipping together edifies by strengthening each other.
   B. Assembling is not a end within itself--but necessary means to end.
      1. Illustration of coal of fire taken from fire.
      2. Being together with those of like faith strengthens our will to continue.
   C. Assembling must not be forsaken. (10:25).
      1. Assembling on first day of week specifically commanded. (1 Cor. 11:19ff; Acts 20:17).
      2. Assembling at other times is authorized means to further edify.
         a. Wednesday nights, gospel meetings and other special services.
         b. Neglect of these often leads to weakening of knowledge and will
         c. May not be parallel to assembly commanded for Lord's Supper on first day of week, but still
excellent opportunity for growth and influence.

d. Should not be a matter of *having* to attend, but a matter of *wanting* to.
   (1) Does a real sports fan ask how many games do I *have* to attend?
   (2) Does a real food lover ask how much do I *have* eat?
   (3) Does a real sweetheart ask how often do I *have* go see my sweetie?


Conclusion:

A. Drifting is so easy.
B. We need all knowledge and encouragement we can get.