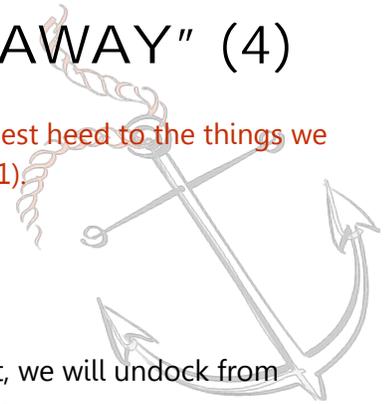




"LEST WE DRIFT AWAY" (4)

"Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away" (Heb. 2:1).



It is not only what you hear, but how you hear. After this installment, we will undock from Hebrews 2:1 but will remain anchored in Hebrews for a while longer.

Finally, we ought to see that the antidote for drifting away from our salvation is to "give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard." Peter beckoned his readers, "And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place..." (2 Pet. 1:9). The word "heed" had an understanding to the Greeks of that of bringing something near, like a ship which was approaching land, and hence means to turn your mind and attention to something. This is what the Samaritans did with Philip: "And the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did" (Acts 8:6).

We must learn from Biblical teaching and pay attention to it in the same manner as if we were in a canoe touring a river. Carelessness would not be permitted in such a venture. The perils of the course would easily enforce the penalty of neglect. So how earnest are we with God's word? How earnest and active can I be when the word is preached? How earnest can I be in giving heed to my personal reading of the Scriptures?

Let us know that though they may, riches and worldly responsibilities *do not have to* dull our senses. The Ethiopian treasurer was a man with great responsibility, who used his time wisely in reading and researching the Scriptures while returning home from Jerusalem (Acts 8:27, 28). Despite the demands of his position, he found time to worship God and enthusiastically study His word. Do I have as much responsibility as he had? Yet, do I have as much earnest desire to discover God's word as he did? Has the novelty of God's word become a tarnished "bore" and "burden," or is it something exciting and refreshing to look into? Are you chartering your path wisely and moving toward your desired heavenly destination? Where were you six months ago in comparison to today? As you examine yourself, do you see one who is growing with or shrinking away from God's word?



—Steven J. Wallace