

## **“ARE WE DRIFTING AWAY?”**

**Series: So Great A Salvation**

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### **HEBREWS 2:1-4**

<sup>1</sup> Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. <sup>2</sup> For since the message declared by angels proved to be reliable, and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, <sup>3</sup> how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard, <sup>4</sup> while God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to His will.

### **THE PROBLEM: DRIFTING**

“You will say that these are very small sins; and doubtless, like all young tempters, you are anxious to be able to report spectacular wickedness. But do remember, the only thing that matters is the extent to which you separate the man from the Enemy. It does not matter how small the sins are provided that their cumulative effect is to edge the man away from the Light and out into the Nothing. Murder is no better than cards if cards can do the trick. Indeed the safest road to Hell is the gradual one—the gentle slope, soft underfoot, without sudden turnings, without milestones, without signposts.”

C.S. Lewis, *Screwtape Letters*, Letter 12

“People do not drift toward holiness. Apart from grace-driven effort, people do not gravitate toward godliness, prayer, obedience to Scripture, faith, and delight in the Lord. We drift toward compromise and call it tolerance; we drift toward disobedience and call it freedom; we drift toward superstition and call it faith. We cherish the indiscipline of lost self-control and call it relaxation; we slouch toward prayerlessness and delude ourselves into thinking we have escaped legalism; we slide toward godlessness and convince ourselves we have been liberated.”

D.A Carson

### ***Discussion Questions***

1. What do we learn about the danger of drifting from the evil characters in *Screwtape Letters*?
2. What do we learn about drifting from the D.A. Carson quotation?
3. What does drifting away look like in our context? List specific examples.
4. Why do we drift away?

## THE SOLUTION: GRACE-DRIVEN EFFORT

*Jesus Saves Us • Are we resting and rejoicing in the power of His saving grace?*

**For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.**

**Ephesians 2:8**

“We see that our whole salvation and all its parts are comprehended in Christ. We should therefore take care not to derive the least portion of it from anywhere else.

If we seek salvation, we are taught by the very name of Jesus that it is ‘of Him’.

If we seek any other gifts of the Spirit, they will be found in His anointing.

If we seek strength, it lies in His dominion;  
if purity, in His conception; if gentleness, it appears in His birth.

For by His birth he was made like us in all respects that He might learn to feel our pain.

If we seek redemption, it lies in His passion;  
if acquittal, in His condemnation; if remission of the curse, in His cross;  
if satisfaction, in His sacrifice; if purification, in His blood;  
if reconciliation, in His descent into hell; if mortification of the flesh, in His tomb;  
if newness of life, in His resurrection; if immortality, in the same;  
if inheritance of the Heavenly Kingdom, in His entrance into heaven;  
if protection, if security, if abundant supply of all blessings, in His Kingdom;  
if untroubled expectation of judgment, in the power given to Him to judge.

In short, since rich store of every kind of good abounds in Him, let us drink our fill from this fountain, and from no other.”

John Calvin, *The Institutes of the Christian Religion*

**But may all who seek You rejoice and be glad in You; may those who love Your salvation say continually, “Great is the LORD!”**

**Psalms 40:16**

***Jesus Changes Us • Are we walking in the power of His transforming grace?***

**For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.**

**Ephesians 2:9**

**But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.**

**1 Corinthians 15:10**

**...work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.**

**Philippians 2:12-13**

**I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.**

**Romans 12:1-2**

**If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.**

**Put to death therefore what is earthly in you...**

**Put on, then, as God's chosen ones, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience...**

**Colossians 3:1-5, 12**

***Discussion Questions***

5. *What is "grace-driven effort"? Why is it so important?*
6. *With God's help, how do you want to increase your intensity to match the danger of drifting?*
7. *"We have a personal relationship with Jesus, but not a private one." What does that mean?*
8. *If we don't want to drift away, how do our friendships need to grow and change?*