

## LEST WE DRIFT AWAY 02.09.09

Hebrews 1:4-2:1

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God has spoken to us in His Son.

Hebrews 1:3-2:1

v. 3 – “radiance” (effulgence or flood of resplendent light).

- The Son is presented here as the Person of Deity in and by Whom the glory of that Deity is manifested.
- The word means an outshining, not a reflection.

“exact representation of His nature” – or His essence or substance.

- The word used in the Greek for “nature” relates to Deity itself—the “exact expression” of which, the Man Christ Jesus is.
- Along with [John 8:58](#), these are some of the strongest assertions of the deity of Christ.

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“...the enemies of the Bible have tried to destroy its significance through intellectual attacks or ridicule. In our own time, the primary means of attack has been to undermine its significance in the minds of people, to attack and ridicule the Bible in the media, in the arts, in schools and universities, and even in churches that practice a liberal, humanistic theology. With clever words and subtle arguments, the devil speaks through people of prominence and intelligence to blunt, twist, and disable the testimony of the Scriptures.”

(Stedman, *Spiritual Warfare*)

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Remaining secure in a world adrift...

2 Timothy 3:1-17

A. The Peril of Drifting (3:1-9)

1. Antagonism against the elect will increase. (v.1)
  - We can count on and expect the criticism against the gospel and those who believe it to amplify as we get closer to the Lord's return.
2. Self-love and the love of pleasure will amplify. (vv.2-4)
  - *Amusing Ourselves to Death* (Neil Postman)
  - *Kingdom Triangle* (J.P. Moreland)
3. A false and powerless form of godliness will prevail.
  - 1 [John 2:19](#) and [Philippians 3:17-19](#)

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4. Preying on the innocent and naïve will increase (v.6)
5. Skepticism will replace knowledge of the truth (v.7)
  - Most students leaving universities today are skeptics – they have been taught to question everything, and yet believe nothing to be true.
6. Opposition to the Truth (Jesus) will be the result of a depraved mind. (v.8)
  - [Colossians 2:6-9](#)

B. The Protection from Drifting.

1. Follow the example of the eye-witnesses – the apostles. (vv. 10-11)
  - We have to be careful who we trust – especially within the church (v.13) – [Col 2:20-23](#)

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“We cannot stand and look over the apostles’ shoulders, correcting their work. It is they who stand looking over our shoulders, correcting our work.” (Karl Barth)

“When a professor behind a desk ... makes a pronouncement that differs from what Paul or Peter or James or John has said, then reject it, for that professor is some thousands of miles and some two thousand years too far away to make an adequate and proper judgment.” (Ray C. Stedman)

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- 2. Continue on in the scriptures (v.14-17)
  - Do you *know* the person who is teaching you? (v.14)
  - How do I keep from drifting? – by knowing the written Word
  - “you have *known the sacred writings* which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.” (v. 15)
- Final summary on keeping from drifting:
  - ALL scripture is God-breathed and is profitable for teaching, reproof, correction and training in righteousness. (vv1.6-17)
  - 2 Peter 3:16 – all is scripture.

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- Practical steps to keep from drifting:
    1. Study the written word diligently.
      - 2 Timothy 2:15 – “handling accurately the word (*logos*) of truth”
      - Ephesians 6:17 – “the sword of the Spirit, which is the word (*rhema*) of God
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2. Memorize the written word.
    - Joshua 1:8; Psalm 119:9-11
  3. Practice using the written word.
    - Matthew 4 – “it is written”
- Hebrews 2:1 – “we must pay *much closer* attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it.”