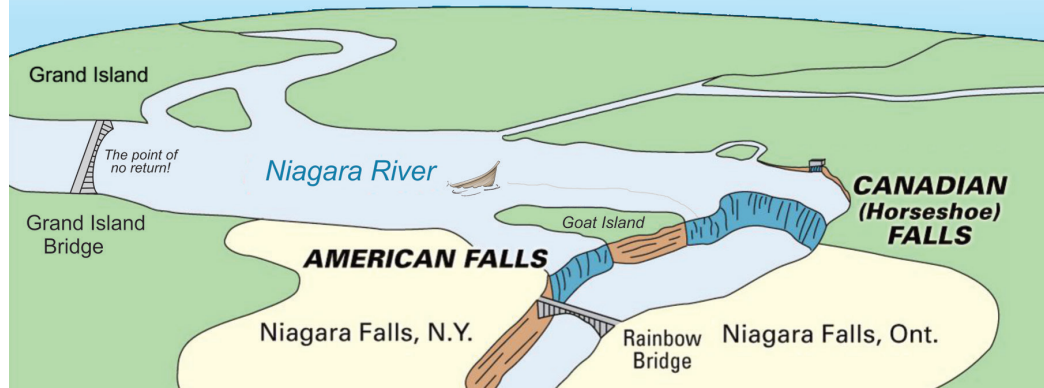


Whatever You Do, Don't Drift

Community Baptist Church, 2/23/2020



Text: 1 Samuel 1, 2

A Contrast of Families

A. Eli's Sons—Hophni & Phinehas (1 Sam. 2:12-17)

1. They were “sons of Belial” (good for nothing, W_____), (1 Sam. 2:12).
2. “Me F_____, then God, then you.
3. Their sin was very G_____ (1 Sam. 2:17).

B. Elkanah's Son—Samuel

(1 Samuel 2:21) And the LORD visited Hannah, so that she conceived, and bare three sons and two daughters. And the child Samuel grew before the LORD.

(1 Samuel 2:26) And the child Samuel grew on, and was in favour both with the LORD, and also with men.

C. Eli's Legacy

1. The priesthood is R_____ from Eli's descendants (2:31) and given to those who will walk with God.
2. Eli's descendants will experience pre-mature deaths (2:31).
3. Those of Eli' family that God allows to live will be poor, meager, pitiful fellows (2:33, 36).
4. Eli's descendants will be cut down in the prime of their life (2:33).
5. Eli's wicked sons Hophni and Phinehas will perish on the same day (2:34).

APPLICATION:

Warnings about Spiritual Drifting

1. Drifting is dangerous because it happens _____. How does it happen that a Christian ceases living for Christ?
2. Drifting is subtle because it is usually not _____ by those who are drifting. If you are moving with the waters around you things seem to be calm but actually there is a drifting taking place.
3. Drifting is much sooner realized by those who are not drifting, such as, those standing on the shore. They can tell if the boat is drifting more easily than the ones in the boat.
4. Drifting can be pleasurable because it requires no _____ and makes no waves.
5. Drifting is especially dangerous when the boats around us are drifting also. (Cf. 2 Corinthians 10:12) “...*but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.*”
6. Drifting is dangerous because it is difficult, perhaps impossible, to _____ ground. There can be a point-of-no-return. It is hard to go upstream when everything is pushing you downstream.

Tools to Combat the Drift

1. The _____. This is an anchor of stability.
2. A written _____—What did God do in your life? Do this for your children/grandchildren.
3. A written statement of convictions/decisions (Ancient Landmarks)
4. A vibrant, daily walk with Jesus Christ
5. Obedience to God’s Word on a personal level
6. An awareness that drifting occurs
7. A refusal to make excuses for the drift
8. Being a God-pleaser not a people-pleaser
9. A mixture of trials and blessings. Trials help you keep your hand firmly in _____.