

Father, this morning, we just come to You, Lord. It's a new day, Lord. Yesterday is behind us. Yesterday's anointing won't do today, Lord. We need a fresh touch from You. Balm of Gilead, we pray You'd anoint our eyes that we might see, what has been hidden; that You'd anoint our ears with Your precious blood that we may hear the voice of Your Holy Spirit that we may be prepared any hour You come. Touch our hearts because they are prone to wander, O Lord. Touch our hearts, O God, that it may return always to its true Maker, to its true owner that we may love You with all our heart. So, this morning, Lord, as we look to Your Word, speak to us, let there be light, more light in our lives. For in Jesus' Name we pray, Amen.

Weeks back, when we began, we remember Joshua, God through Joshua telling the children of Israel to keep their eyes on the ark of the Covenant and the priest who carried it because they were moving into a new territory and so are we. The writer of *Hebrews* will tell us to beware of drifting or wandering and to keep our eyes fixed on Christ Jesus. So, every time we gather around the Word, the whole purpose is to bring us back to God, to His Son.

Yesterday, if you were there and most of you weren't there and the message is already up. It's even there on the WhatsApp group. We were looking in the beginning at the questions. We saw the Bible is full of questions. Now, you need questions in life. People who don't have questions never find answers. We need questions and question is the way to finding answers. But remember the first question in the Bible does not begin with man or with God, it begins with the father of liars, the father of all lies. *Genesis 3:1* says,

Genesis 3:1

¹ Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?'"

So, remember the first question was asked by the father of lies, the devil. The first question and the nature in which he asked the question should define for us the character of the devil. The one who will always cast doubt on the character of God and the Word of God, or what God has spoken, and you will see later, when Jesus walks on earth and the Pharisees and the Scribes and all are forever; He looked at them and say, "You are of your father the devil." And honestly, you go around, studying Scripture and you look at the questions the Pharisees or those who were sent by the Pharisees asked Jesus, you will see, those are not genuine questions. The questions they asked are basically to trap Him because what He said was actually true. They were of the devil. So, when people ask questions and when you ask questions, always be careful that you ask questions to find the truth and not to trap people because if you ask questions to trap somebody, you know who your father is. Because questions reveal the heart of a person. This reveal the heart of the wisest of all creation. God was not created but He said when the devil was created, he was perfect in his wisdom. But even those who have perfect wisdom can be corrupted if their heart still strays away from God. So, the first question in the Bible is asked by the devil. The next question is asked by God. He asked the first question when God told Adam, "Where are you?" So, the first question that God asked the fallen man, is a Father looking for his children and He's asking, where are you? The first question of the fallen man is found in *Genesis 4:9*. You look at the first question is from the devil. Fourth question of God, the first question of the fallen man is this.

Genesis 4:9

⁹ Then the Lord said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" (Where is your brother? That's what God is asking. That is the forth question of God. The first question of man.) He said, "I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?"

It's a question. The callous attitude of the fallen man – "Am I my brother's keeper?" And you see, we need to search our hearts. If you read Scripture and you know from Scripture which is true, "The earth and its fullness, everything on the earth belongs to God including us. There is nothing that we have or we will have is ours; it belongs to Him because He is the Creator; He created everything. So, everything that we have we hold it as stewards, everything. And sometimes, through deliberate knowledge or sometimes through ignorance, the fallen man acts Cain. "Am I my brother's keeper?" You know

Drifters!

and God, true, because He is in control of everything through nature tries to teach us, you are your brother's keeper. One of the things which I always do when I go into an institution like LHL or GSS or homes, my home, other home is that that, first thing I do is put off what is not needed, shut the tap that is dripping because we are our brother's keepers and I see young people are absolutely callous about these things which when you don't realize. Water is the most precious commodity now on earth. It is running out but sometimes, our heart is revealed by the attitude with which we deal with things. How we deal with things. It doesn't matter how many you have; it doesn't matter, we just don't throw it away; we try to reuse it because we are stewards. It is not only how we deal with our brother; it is also, how we deal with resources because a resource which is used to the maximum can go in helping another brother but you look at the heart of the fallen man, his first question is – I am not my brother's keeper. "Am I my brother's keeper? I am not responsible for him. What I have, I am going to spend it, use it, enjoy it and if he starves, who cares?" And that is not our attitude. That is not our attitude because our Father, the everlasting Father, when Jesus came on the Cross, He was declaring, "I am My brother's keeper." So, we can learn from questions. Go through the Bible.

Yesterday, I told the Pastors always carry something like that. You know, I carry that even here so that I can mark as I go along. You go through your Bible, young ones I'm teaching you. Go through your Bible as you do your Bible study. Whenever you see a question, underline it because you can learn from questions. You can ask those questions over and over again to God and you will keep on getting answers because the answers God gives you about a particular question can be as deep as Him. As you grow older and older He gives you depths of that same question, how will the answer be? So, it is an incredible walk with the living God because He is living.

So, you will see through the Bible. Of course, I am not going to repeat; yes, I will for those who were never here. The first question, "Where are you?" The second question, "Who told you?" The third question, "What have you done?" Forth question, "Why are you angry? Why has your countenance fallen?" And then from there to Hagar, "Where have you come from, where are you going?" "Sarah, why did you laugh? "Jacob, what is your name?" "Moses, what is in your hand?" It goes on through. That's all God's Job will ask a question. If a man dies, will he live again? That's an interesting question. Think about it. It's a home work. Find it out in your Bible, where did Job ask this question? You have a none believing friend and you share the Gospel with them and say just google search the *Book of Job* and there is this verse, just read it and they will go back and ask this question, "If a man dies, will he live?" That is the oldest Book in the Bible. It is the *Book of Job*. So therefore, one of the oldest questions of man is: if you die, will you live? It's an interesting question. Rich young ruler, excellent guy, very good guy, very obedient. He's still has a nagging doubt in his heart that he's not saved. Comes, falls on his knees before Jesus and asks the question, "What do I do to have eternal life?" Interesting, right? Jesus asks this question, what does it profit? All career-oriented young people, what does it profit if you gain the whole world and lose your soul? In the US, the pinnacle you can reach in a career is become the president of united states. One young guy became president at a very young age, two terms are over, now, he's trying to get into Netflix. Do you know what Netflix is? It is a T.V. channel. He wants to do programs with Netflix because you've reached there, now, what are you going to do with your life? That is the problem with every career in the world. There is an end to it. There is only one career till your last breath, serving God. What shall it profit man if he gains the whole world and loses his soul? And if you study the Gospel, Jesus was a master and I've learnt and learning from Jesus how to deflect a question with a question. He was very good and we should learn and the reason is, we are living in a world like never before where we are absolutely distracted by so many voices calling for attention and the incredible pressures of city life. City life is incredibly full of pressure. It's not like the village life, the country-side life. There is incredible pressure because you are dependent upon a system. Even if you have your own house, you don't have your own water, you don't have your own electricity, you don't have your own vegetables.

I was telling my boys one day, "You know what? if I go back home to my own house, my own home, I think that land is over hundred years old, the well has never gone dry in all these years, fifty, sixty years. That means I don't need the government for water, I don't need electricity because I will go to sleep at six and wake up at four. The vegetables on the land is enough to feed me and there is one room downstairs where are the firewood has been kept, I don't need gas." You see the difference between the city and the country. Dependence on the system, very little but the system doesn't want it. They want to hoard the people in the city so they can control us and there is incredible pressure. We will say, "O, the children in the villages, in the rural areas are not academically brilliant," because there is no pressure. They are not worrying their heads off like you do. So, there is pressure, there are distractions all around, right? If you go to the village, the color of milk is white. If you come to the city, what is the color of milk? Right? So, God puts this questions over there in the Bible to bring

Drifters!

us back. So, we ask these questions, so that we don't drift because even believers drift. Believers drift and they can walk in disobedience.

Remember the master of the ship asking Jonah, "How come you are sleeping?" Woke him up. It was a sleep unto death. If that unbeliever hadn't woken up the believer with a question, "Wake up! How can you sleep at a time like this?" Everybody was rescued because of a question. Jonah woke up and said, "What is the problem?" He said, "This is the problem." He said, "I know the solution." So, one question saved the ship lots of people. See, that is how God does. Otherwise, we will keep on drifting. So, in *Hebrews 2:1*,

Hebrews 2:1

Therefore, we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away.

There is only one solution because we are living in a city atmosphere. Only one way we can save ourselves from drifting, by giving earnest heed. Meaning – careful attention to what we have heard – the Word of God and the messages. You know, one of the Pastors was saying yesterday, the one who translates for me was telling me yesterday, "Pastor, I've reached 2011." I said, "What do you mean?" He said, "From 2000, the recordings are there on your site, I have reached 2011, I have been listening every day, every message that is over there. I'm listening, studying and it is changing my life." You know what? That was what I was praying for. He is a nice young man. Telangana is opening for him. Every week, they are calling him to different district to come and teach the pastors. You see, you invest in one man and God takes that man and takes him around. That's why we have to pay careful attention to the things we have heard lest we drift away. So, even *Genesis*, it is God who asks, "Where are you?" The Old Covenant begins with God's question, "Adam, Adam, where are you?" The New Covenant is interesting, it begins with the question from man. In *Matthew 2:2* man is asking the question, "God, where are You?" Did you see what four hundred years of silence have done between *Matthew* and *Malachi*? Four hundred years of God not speaking to His people. When the New Covenant opens, it begins with a question, "Where is He, born the king of the Jews?"

Matthew 2:2

² saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him."

It's a paradigm shift from God asking where is man to man now asking, "Where is God?" Here, I was telling yesterday, the most important question in the Bible, a question every human being will have to answer one day in their life or answer one day before Christ. Every one born will have to answer. It was not asked by God, it was not asked by the devil, it was asked by no Old Testament or New Testament saint. It was asked by a gentile an unbelieving Roman and it is found in *Matthew 27:22*. It's a very personal question. All believers will have to answer that question every day, every man will have to have an answer one day. What is it?

Matthew 27:22

²² Pilate said to them, "What then shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?"

It is not, what shall we? What shall I do with Jesus? The reason you are here today is because there is a question in your heart – what shall I do with Jesus? That is the question. Most of our issues as believers is got to do with this question. You know you are supposed to go in this way, you are going in this way and you are uneasy, you are worried, you are anxious, the question is: what shall I do with Jesus? I wish He'd let me go, that I could go my way. He says, "I am not going to leave you." So, what shall I do with this Jesus? Everyone has to answer and it is not a question that will go away. You can go buy a ticket in the opposite direction, find a boat ready to go. Get into the boat, go down, go to the deepest part of the ship and lie down over there, the question will follow you. What will you do with Jesus? You can be thrown overboard, swallowed by a whale, taken to the deepest part of the ocean, even there the question follows you, what will you do with Jesus. You cannot escape. You cannot run from this question because we will all have to answer – what will I do with Jesus? Oh! We love the beautiful promise in the last verse of the *Gospel of Matthew* – "Surely, I will be with you till the very end." We feel so comforted when we are in trouble. That's not what He said. He said, "Always." When we are up to mischief, it's not a very comforting verse – I am with you. People put this thing up in all Christian houses - Jesus is the head of this house and

Drifters!

the silent listener at every conversation. That's what we think. He's not a silent listener. He listens silently and start speaking in here, "What will you do with Me? What will you do?" You're playing hooky with God.

There was this little boy who started school, in a little kindergarten school. His mother used to go and drop him. You know how children are. After a few weeks, he said, "Ma! I can go alone. All the children are making fun of me. Your mama drops you to school? I will go alone." She said, "Okay, son. You can go alone." And she had two of her older friends. She told them, "My son doesn't want me to walk with him. You do one thing. In the morning, stay little behind, but go with him and drop him. See that he doesn't lose his way and that he goes to school." So, these two ladies used to take their knitting and they used to follow him and watch him. Every day, this was the routine. One day, one of his little friends asked him, "Those two old ladies at the back, are they following you?" He said, "No. We cannot get rid of them." "Why?" "Mama has told me every night." "Do you know what their names are?" He says, "I think their names are goodness and mercy, because she says every night, "Goodness and mercy shall follow you all the days of your life."" When it is goodness and mercy, we love it. "Lord, I love it!" But that's not what He is alone. He is more than goodness and mercy. Therefore, it is good to have this question always in your heart.

Today, this message is not on questions, but I'm getting you. Because a lot of young people in the Church almost half of the Church is young people, just don't read your Bible like a parrot speaks. Okay? Just don't read it as routine like you're preparing for an exam. Take it seriously. Your Bible is your life. And all the questions that deal with life, the questions are there and the answers are there. And I also will tell you, those who are zealous, I know many of you are zealous in your evangelism and you teach in your offices and your IT firms. You see when you do evangelism, don't give a person who is searching, who's interested, the entire Bible. Give them the New Testament. Because they need to encounter Jesus first. And once they have encountered Jesus and they know Jesus, it's all about Jesus. But you give them Genesis and people who are structured will read the beginning of the book. They will not understand anything. First, let them find Jesus, because the Bible is not a set of stories. The Bible is His story. From *Genesis 1* to *Revelation 22*, it is the story of God, of Jesus Christ. So, give them the New Covenant and let them find Jesus. And I always say, "Underline verses, few of them which you think will get their attention." That's how you do evangelism, not by always giving them the whole Bible which after reading few pages, they put it away. And if you are serious about studying, of the Gospels, you have Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. But if you are a serious student of the Bible, you should begin with the Gospel according to John. That is of the four, the doctrinal of the four Gospels.

I was telling last Sunday night's Telugu service, I was telling the pastors, "If you take the New Covenant, you have 27 books. The first five books are history. The four Gospels and *Acts* is history. After that you have the epistles all the way till Jude, which is doctrine. And then, you have *Revelation* which is prophecy. That's how the New Covenant is divided – history, doctrine and revelation. Only one man, John, who wrote history Gospel according to John, Doctrine- *1 John*, *2 John*, *3 John*. And prophecy- the *Book of Revelation*. History tells you who God was. Doctrine tells you who God is. Prophecy tells you who God will be. He is the same yesterday, today and forever. One man writes all three in the New Covenant. So, how you study differs depending upon your heart and your interest. And you should be interested in this. And you don't need to go to Bible college. That's why you have two pastors here who never went to Bible college. All you have to be is interested in this, in this and say "Lord, when I open, teach me. Speak to me. I want to learn of You. I want to learn."

A lot people, when they approach subjects and choose careers, they are looking at stuff that would profit them in life. But in relationships you don't look at it like that. When you love somebody, you want to know as much possible about that person so that your relationship can grow. You need to approach your Bible that way. This is about You. No one has ever, no one will ever love me the way You love me. I want to really know You. All of eternity, I will know You, but I don't want to waste my life. I'm starting now. I'm starting today." That's how you approach your Bible. And you'll suddenly realize, it's not a boring book. It's an exciting book, an incredibly exciting book. So, each of the books are different, but it is the same Savior. So, if you look at the *Gospel according to John*, the first question there is by Jesus. What's the first question Jesus asks in the Gospel according to John? It's the same question He asks everybody. If you're following Him, He stops and asks, "What do you seek? What do you seek?" You'll see through the Gospels, He asks different people, "What do you want?" What do you seek? We all have come to the same house today. We all sang the same songs. We all heard the same prayer and said 'Amen' to the same prayer. We all will listen to the same message, but we will not receive the same answers. We will receive as we seek. What do you seek today? That's the first question. And they said, "Where do you stay?" And He said, "Come and see." Right? We know this. Andrew was one of the two disciples who followed Jesus and asks this question.

Drifters!

He stays with Jesus. If you stay with Jesus, that's interesting, you'll always see. When you stay with Jesus, not a chance encounter with Jesus, when you stay with Jesus, you'll go out and say, "Come and meet Him." One of the reason why people don't evangelize. One of the reasons why people don't witness is because they haven't stayed with Him. They haven't stayed with Him. "Come and stay with Me," is the invitation. "Come and see!" He brought his brother, Peter. When somebody is brought to Jesus and you meet Jesus, your destiny changes. Jesus looks at Peter and says, "You're Simon. From today, you are Cephas." Destiny is changed. Finished. That's what happened. That's what happens. I still think about how God changed my destiny and Vijay's destiny. It's just because we met Jesus. Because we met Jesus. If I hadn't met Jesus, my destiny would have been completely different. Absolutely different. Our backgrounds are very similar if you look at it. We both taught students and we both were Ph.D students. So, we have a background of research and a background of teaching. As a final example Jesus does, they didn't catch anything. He says, "Put it on the other side." They dragged and brought it. He's already made breakfast and He says, "Bring some of what you brought also." He has already prepared us for something to do, but He says, "I will also use what you have." So whatever you are training in, it will not be wasted in God's Kingdom if you hand it over. It doesn't matter what your career is, what your choosing is. It doesn't matter. Put it into His hands. But He's not dependent on my little catch or His little catch. Because He has already prepared what we need to have and what we need to give forth. So, when you meet Jesus your destiny changes. It changes.

Then, He meets Philip. It's very interesting. He look at Philip, "Follow Me!" Philip's destiny has changed. You need to meet Jesus, because so many young people, I'm not talking about the younger ones, I'm talking about the older ones who are struggling. I heard about this old English pastors couple of hundred years ago. One of his friends had given him a dog. I don't know how you pronounce it, Coolie. It's a huge dog. It's a big dog. The problem is in the country side, these dogs run and bound. Big massive ones. But he lives in the city. And the next day he has to take the dog for a walk. He said, "We were the two most miserable of dog's creation. I am dragging the dog with the leash. The dog is dragging on the way back. And we went and we came back miserably." Every day it was the same story. So many believers are like that. They have handed their lives over to Jesus and Jesus is pulling this side. They are pulling that side. At the end of the day, two exhausted miserable people. Thank God! He never tires. And every day he was teaching the dog. Teaching the dog. One day, he thought the dog was ready. He unleashed the dog and the dog took off in the city. And he called it and said, "Heel!" That's what they say in English, okay? The dog came back and started on pace with his heels. That's what they say to the dog. "Heel," meaning – follow my heels. And the dog and the master are now walking together. That's what God wants. He doesn't want to pull you all your life. That's what the name Caleb means: a dog who follows his master at his steps. Therefore he entered and possessed the promised land and at the age of eighty two he is able to say, "I am as strong today as the day Moses sent me." Because he was a dog who followed the heels of his master. Don't strain against the leash. Don't pull against the leash. Learn to walk at the heels of your master, because that is our destiny. That's our destiny. But it all begins with this. Encounter this. Many of you may not understand the word, it doesn't matter. Hear. One day it will make sense. you need to realize when Scripture says in *Romans 8:28*,

Romans 8:28

²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

You need to realize, even if you do not know, Jesus loves you. And even if you will find Jesus only five years from now, he already knows five years from now, you will love Him. So, he's already ordering your steps. Because He has seen the end from the beginning. You need to know. Everything is ordained by Him. Everything! I've shared this testimony. The year my father brought me from those mountains to Kerala and dropped me there in class 6. He came to Trivandrum. They said the boarding is closed. My elder brothers, all are in the boarding schools. The boarding schools are closed. We are not taking any more students. He came for a week in the middle of October in the middle of the Academic year. He came to my hometown. Little town. He put me in a protestant school as a day scholar. The only child in a protestant school. All the others in Catholic institutions, that was God's plan. I am sitting in a class of forty students or more. Around 35 protestants. 4 Hindus. 1 Catholic. The only catholic in a protestant school. And the first day in one of the periods, you are taught the Bible. For the first time in my life, I heard the Word of God being taught. Today, you know what? Both my brothers haven't entered a Church in 20 to 25 years. And I preach His word. What you thought then was what a terrible thing to happen to me. God turned it around and He says, "Your destiny is already fixed by me, because I knew you would one day love Me. And all things work together for you." So, don't ever think! I didn't understand anything that was being taught and every year, one week in that school there was a chapel and they had what is called- temperance meetings(Old English term). You

Drifters!

wouldn't even know. Go and search on google. That's what the old timers used to have temperance meetings. I was fascinated by the Word of God though I didn't know the God of the word at all. All it did was when I reached finally the city in the college, one week after getting admission into that Catholic college, one night one young man comes and knocks on my doors and gives me the Gospel and says, "Will you pray with me and ask Jesus to come into your heart?" Things changed from then. What I'm saying is there is a God and everything works together for your good. Just take this and one day it will make a lot of sense or it will make complete sense.

So, next encounter Jesus has. I'm just going through it briefly how you study the Bible. The next encounter Jesus has is in the Gospel according to John with Nathaniel. It's interesting, Nathaniel's response and Jesus' response. It is very interesting right? Somebody tells Nathaniel about Jesus. What is Nathaniel's response? Can anything good come out of Nazareth? What is that called? Ignorance. What is that called? Perfection came out of Nazareth and he's asking can anything good come out of Nazareth? What is Jesus' response?

"Behold! A true Israelite in whom there is no guile." What is He saying? That guy is an innocent man. Let me tell you the problem with this. It's a good commendation Jesus says. But ignorance and innocence is not a good combination. In Malayalam, we have a saying: shuddhan dushtan dabalamm jeen. So, what it means is, an innocent man, an ignorant man, an innocent ignorant man can do the damage of a wicked man because of his ignorance. God wants you to be innocent of evil but excellent in what is good. He doesn't want you to be ignorant. He wants you to be excellent. Simple lessons we learn by just opening the Scriptures and looking at Jesus' encounters with people and you assess the character and say, "Lord, what are you trying to speak to me?" He says, "Be innocent like Nathaniel, but don't be ignorant like him." Be excellent. Be excellent in what is good and be innocent. So you open the pages of the Bible, I'm telling you children, you'll continuously learn. Because you have a living God who speaks to us. But we are not looking at the Gospel according to John. Question today I have is, it is not a question that is there in the Bible. The question I have today for you is: are you drifting? Pastor Vijay spoke last week about drifting. Believers are caught. Unbelievers don't drift. Only believers are capable of drifting.

Hebrews 2:1-3

¹Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away. ²For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, ³how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him

It's a question. The statement is backed up with a question. What is the problem if you drift away? What will happen to you and me if we neglect so great a salvation, so great a salvation? How shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? How do I guard myself from drifting? In natural ways, you know about boats drifting. The only way you can stop the boat from drifting is to tie it firmly to the pier, to the harbor. The only way you and I can guard ourselves, because we are not dead boats. We are living boats, living stones and living sacrifices, is by tying ourselves daily to Jesus Christ constantly, having an encounter with the person of Jesus Christ. With the person. I told you over and over. Yesterday also I told them over, it's the person of Jesus Christ, because you see, we don't preach religion. Islam can exist independent of Mohammed. The teachings are already there, inscribed in a book called 'Koran'. The Koran mentions Mohammed four times and Ahmed once. So, altogether, five times. Koran is not dependent anymore on Mohammed. Islam can exist independent of Mohammed. Hinduism can exist independent of any god or no god. Because there is one platform in Hinduism which talks: you can be an atheist and still be a Hindu. Buddhism can exist independent of Buddha. Many of the quotes people quote, they don't even know those were from Buddha. Every religion can exist independent of the teachings of the founders. Christianity cannot. Christianity is the message of a person - His life, His death and His resurrection, and man is free not because of His teachings. Man is free, because of His life. That's why He's the only one who has risen from the dead. Sin has been broken. Powers of darkness have been defeated. Penalty has been paid. Man is free. So this is a living person you and I have to encounter daily. That is the only way we can keep ourselves from drifting. Because all of us are vulnerable to drifting. When it comes to drifting, please remember it doesn't happen suddenly. It happens slowly. It happens gradually. And then, one day, you hit the current and you're swept away. When you got swept away by the current, that's not when you drifted. When your locks were taken by Delilah, that's not when you drifted. You drifted when you looked back years and years earlier. Little by little. Little by little. That day you were hit by the current and you were gone. So drifting happens gradually. One day you will be hit by the storm. But the day you were hit by the storm was not the day you drifted. Drifting took place earlier. That's why we have to guard ourselves constantly by binding ourselves to the person of Jesus. And also

Drifters!

when it comes to drifting, listen carefully. You'll never drift towards faithfulness. You'll always drift into unfaithfulness. You never drift towards goodness. You always drift to wickedness. Drifting is not neutral. Drifting is always down. It's always down. That's why the question: how shall we escape if we ignore so great a salvation? Are we ignoring? Solution: verse 1. Pay careful attention. Listen. Understand. Obey. Pay careful attention to what we have heard. Because the reason is the Word of God has become common and familiar for many. This Saturday, we will listen to Times Square Church message of previous Sunday. It's interesting. It is found in *2 Chronicles 34:15*.

2 Chronicles 34:15

¹⁵ ***Then Hilkiah answered and said to Shaphan the scribe, "I have found the Book of the Law in the house of the Lord." And Hilkiah gave the book to Shaphan.***

Where was the book of the law lost? In the House of the Lord. Where is the book of God lost? It's been lost with the people of God. We treat this common. It's no longer life. It's a ritual. Read. Put away. It's become another idol. Read. Put away. And I continue with my life. It has been lost in the house of God. It's been lost in the house of God. The Word of God has become very common. It has become very familiar. Just imagine today's service, not here. Anywhere. Fantastic music! Super worship! Very powerful prayer. Incredible fellowship. 10 minutes word. No substance. No Scripture. Would you know the difference that the Word of God has been lost in the house of God? Would you know? Would you know? People sitting in thousands and thousands of Churches around the world, do they realize the Word of God has actually been lost because it packaged nicely, we gave music. We prayed. We fed and had fellowship. But the Word of God was lost. Life continues. Nobody realizes, Israel is drifting, drifting, drifting towards captivity and death. And one Josiah wakes up and says, "O Lord! The Word of the law has been found." He reads. Heart is broken. Brings restoration. Judgment is stopped for a period until they start drifting away. What stops judgment in your and my life? The Word of God. Praise doesn't stop. Prayer doesn't stop. Fellowship doesn't stop. All this has meaning only if it is built around the Word of God. Otherwise, nothing stops. Nothing stops. Remember the Word of God can get lost in the very house of God. When it was lost in the house of God, doesn't matter if the house of God wasn't there, it was there. It didn't say the praise and worship stopped. It didn't say music stopped. It didn't say the sacrifices stopped or the priests stopped. Everything was continuing. Only one thing was lost. The Word of God was lost. And the entire nation was drifting away. Drifting away. That's what God is talking about. So, be careful. Because everything that happens in the house of God has to be validated by the Word of God. Everything that happens in your and my life has to be validated by the Word of God to be accepted by God and put the seal, it's true. Therefore it is of Me. Otherwise, on that day, when books are opened, we will see, we don't like the results. And we see this repeated over and over and over. How does drifting happen? It happens when I listen to the Word of God, but my life doesn't change. Life doesn't change because it has become very familiar. You see the first time I flew in an aircraft, it was many years ago, you listen to the airhostess. She comes and stands there and she gives you these instructions: how to put your seatbelt; and how if there is turbulence, the oxygen mask will come down; and you take first and if you have baby, give the baby; and if the plane crashes; and your heart is pounding. When they sold you the ticket, they never told you any of these things. first time. Then second time you paid attention. Third time. Now, you are a frequent traveler. When she comes over there, you take a magazine and start reading. Why? Those announcements are about life and death. But you have become familiar. Then suddenly turbulence hits, like last time, turbulence hit. I couldn't put my belt because I didn't realize, suddenly, in the panic, you don't know what to open, how to pull it out. That's what believers do. Suddenly, Christ has come. "Ayyo! Ayyo! Solution! Solution! Ayyo, Jeremiah! Isaiah! Chinnaiyah!" You see what happens. We become familiar. This is not crisis management. This is life. Daily management. Not crisis management. But for many people the only way God can bring them back to His house and to His word is through crisis. Don't live in crisis. Take that crisis. Turn it around and say, "I will go into life management through His word and through His spirit." Otherwise crisis will never end. Because God says, "that is the only way I can keep you in line. Otherwise, you will drift away." *Hebrews 4:12* says about the Word of God,

Hebrews 4:12

¹² ***The Word of God is living...***

The man of God may be dead, gone; but the Word you preach is still living. That's why we enjoy the Word of God and the men of God who have gone before us and we study because what they have preached because it is the Word of God which is still living. And,
...it is powerful...

Drifters!

It is living and it is powerful. The books you read entertain you; they're not powerful. It's not living; it's dead. This is living and is powerful.

One of the final visions of John the Apostle in Patmos of Jesus coming back, ready for the second coming to Judge the Earth and rule for 1000 years, he suddenly sees something in *Revelation 19*,

Revelations 19:13

¹³ ***He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God.***

Remember Jesus saying something? *"The ruler of this world has come and he found nothing in Me."* Why couldn't he find anything in Jesus? Because in his entire life was the Word of God. Imagine one day, you finish your race and the entire life has become the Word of God and when he comes and says you and me are same, nothing to judge. Because He said, "On that day, you will be judged by the Word you have heard." That's the journey we are running in towards, "Lord let me consume by your Word because your Word is life, your Word is Spirit." The question is: what will I do with Jesus? What will I do with Jesus?

Two – drifting happens when we don't care anymore. We know if we don't care. Two Sundays from now the Resurrection Sunday, Good Friday, Easter Sunday all; you go around this city/any city in India, shamiana (Tents) all put up. Why should you put shamianas during Good Fridays/resurrection Sundays? Because a lot of people who never came will come on those days. Why? They don't care the rest of the year. I told the pastors yesterday, "Just because your name in the rolls of the Church's register, it does not mean your name in the Lamb's Book of Life." These are two different books – in Heaven, those books are not opened; no earthly book is opened, every book that is opened is the heavenly book. That's why *Hebrews 10:25* is written to drifters.

Hebrews 10:25

²⁵ ***not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.***

You see the Day is approaching. Today, we are seventy days into this year. We are closer to the Day of Judgment than the 70days ago. Tomorrow we are one more day closer to the Day of Judgment and what does that do to us? Signs are visible of drifting.

First – you drift away from the Word of Christ, as the person, word and person.

Second – you drift away from the Body of Christ. There's a head and there is a body. Head is there, body is here. You want to check out whether you are drifting? First, you drift away from the head then, your drift away from the body. Check it out. It's how you know. Many who are faithful to the body but have no connection with the head at all. That's called religion Christianity and we are not talking about that; we are talking about those who knew the head they are drifting from the head; they are drifting from the body, be watchful! It doesn't matter how the body looks, it's still is the Body of Christ. Doesn't matter how the body looks, it still the Body of Christ.

If you were there yesterday afternoon 2nd part, you would have heard, everything is over, Jesus is hanging on the cross, dead. You look at the body, it doesn't look good at all, bleeding, covered, marred, beyond recognition, everybody has backed off; you don't see the disciples, the women are staring far away, the crowd probably started slowly moving away, it's still His body. It's still the body of God's son. There is still a prophesy to be fulfilled and God's Word will not go void. If I am right in *Isaiah 53:9*, there is still a prophesy to be fulfilled because it's still the body of Christ, what does it says.

Isaiah 53:9

⁹ ***And they made His grave with the wicked*** (there He is hanging along the wicked) ***But with the rich at His death,***

You read all the Four Scriptures *Matthew, Mark Luke and John* and see the difference the additions – out of the blue, a rich man called Joseph of Arimathea, steps forward. Second thing is he is upright, just man; third thing in another Gospel, he

Drifters!

was a member of that counsel the Sanhedrin. He did not agree with the verdict about Jesus. He dissented and he goes. John will say he was a secret believer. Yesterday, I have told pastors, "How long will you remain as a secret believer? Either the secret will destroy the belief or your belief will destroy your secret; you cannot remain a secret believer all your life." When God's Son was hanging on the cross and there was no body who was willing forward, some out of fear, some out of shame; to claim that body; two men step forward and they were ordained mem of God; Two secret believers step forward; One-Joseph of Arimathea and other Nicodemus both were the members of the council. And they went to Pilate and said, "Can you give us the body?" He is shocked, "He's dead?" They said, "He is dead." "It's okay. Take the body." There is a problem! Its Passover preparation day today; tomorrow is Passover; the feast continues for seven days and there is a verse in the law which says, "If anyone touches a corpse/dead body, you are unclean for seven days." You are the part of the Sanhedrin, you touched Jesus Body, you take His body, you are in trouble with the Sanhedrin, you are out of the class who all opposes the Jesus and moreover, you have to miss Passover, you have to miss the Passover because you are unclean. Two men, righteous men go and I believe they are righteous. So, they won't even ask the servants to do it. They took His body down; they didn't think Scripture. I believe they took the nails out and they washed His body, they anointed His body; they covered His body and chose to be unclean and carried His body and put it in the tomb and closed the door. Two people, why? Because it was still the body of God's own Son. So, it doesn't matter how the body looks or whether you like it or not, there will be all kinds of people in the Body of Christ; it is still the body of His Son and you cannot separate from that and if you separate from that, He will find people who will anoint His body and cleanse His body and carry His body through. Because it is His body. Remember – don't drift away, don't look down. One thing I tell my young men those Pastors who come on Pastor's conference; I look at them, my heart breaks. I sit in the back, I look at them. Some of them have only chapals, they are coming out. Their socks are torn but you don't know their testimonies.

I will tell you the testimony of one, which happened this month – he had given an application to the Police Commissionerate – "We are having two-day's conference. Please give permission." And finally, the Commissioner gave; and when he went they said, "No, postpone it for two days." The speakers are all coming and that old man stood there and said, "You have been put there by my God to give me permission to hold that meeting." He said, "Sir, don't say like that. I am scared," and he said, "Go and have your meeting," and the other pastor with him says, "This old man, you do not know, the commissionerate, when he goes, they tell him, "Lay your hands upon us and pray over us." He says, he stands in the road and people stop him and say, "Will you pray? And he will stand there and pray over people and he is 86 years old. He said, last week, in a bus, he was going a meeting somewhere in Madhapur, a girl fainted and her bag fell, and her others things all fell over there, nobody helped her. He got up and gave her a seat and he said, "Put her over there." He stood there in the bus, public place, put his hands over her and prayed loudly until she came into consciousness. These are not fearful people. Don't judge them what you see them from outside. They all have a testimony; they all come. Be very careful how you judge the Body of Christ, because we do not know, servants of God and the Body of Christ.

We drift from the head. We drift from the Body and God says, "You are drifting." Don't drift. Because it is very easy to criticise the Body of Christ. But Christ is committed to His body, and because He is, we are.

Do you know all these letters? These letters, Epistles – they were all written to the Body of Christ. Different parts of the body. Have you ever thought about this? First day of the week, the Church of Corinth have gathered. People have all come and worship and everything and one of the elders said, "You know what? Exciting day!" "Why?" "We have a letter from our founder. Paul has written a letter!" All are excited. And he opens and he reads; Paul is polite; thank you for Godly loving and kind; and then, the rebuke starts, read 2 Corinthians – they must have been broken, crying, "Oh! Lord, is this what he thinks about us? How did we reach this place? We have drifted away." They are crying; they were repenting and restoration is taking place – One letter. Epistles were written letter to Churches, no preaching. A letter read. Now, we, in this generation, take that letter, take a verse and preach for two hours. They had a letter and it brought repentance and tears because they were committed to the head and committed to the Body of Christ. So, take it seriously. When we do not take the head and the body seriously, we start drifting away.

I grew up; Vijay and I grew up on different tangents; I grow up on the old westerns. My mother will tell you. I loved guns. Oh, I loved guns. My toys were all guns. Every time we came to India, my father used to take and buy me one of those guns and I used to take his diaries, leather thing, cut it and make a holster and tie it around. In the train also, I used to walk around, my mother used to so embarrassed; I said, "No way. I am going to walk around." I reached that country and I am the only one with the gun. They have seen only in movies and they were so scared thinking it's a real gun. I was crazy. So, I

Drifters!

grew up reading the western. In the westerns, little towns, small little community; a stranger will come in and he will go to the bar and orders. A little later, a sheriff will come with the star over there and asking him, "What's your name?" "Something." "Where are you coming from?" "Somewhere." "Where you going?" "Somewhere." "Keep moving. We don't like drifters in this town." That's where I heard before I ever read the Bible, I heard the word 'drifter'. We were not meant to be drifters; we were meant to be rooted in the house of God; not drifters.

Third. We drift away when we get complacent or easy about sin. That's when we drift. Complacent instead of confession;

1 John 1:8

⁸ If we say that we have no sin...

I pray nobody here ever reaches that point where you say, you have no sin. You are in the danger of going back. If we say we have no sin, if you are no longer aware of your sins, there is a serious problem in your life. I told yesterday to the Pastors – holiness and righteousness are two different things. Righteousness – we learn from the Word of God, we learn from the actions of God, we practice righteousness and we become righteous. Nobody can become holy. Holiness is by associating with the Person of God, His holiness rubs onto us. That is how we become holy. The minute you no longer are aware of your sins, that also means you have stopped walking with a holy God. You are drifting away. You are called to confess, not to be complacent. That is why you will see all the incredible people in the Bible before them, we will feel like shrimps. We will shrivel looking at their righteousness and holiness – Isaiah, John and all of them; yet, when they are in the presence of the Living God, when they have a vision, they are caught by their sinfulness. One of the ways people drift is when we get complacent and easy about sin. Awareness of sin is proof that you are walking with Jesus. For the Holy Spirit constantly convicts us to put away so that we can have a closer walk with Jesus. A closer walk with Jesus is not a song; it's a life. The only thing that stands between you and me is not our troubles, is not our famine, is not our lack, our mountains, our sickness – it's none of these; it's only sin. If Paul asked the rhetorical question, "What can separate you?" The answer is – sin. It's not that God has separated Himself from me; I have separated myself from Him. There was a husband and a wife who were driving and now, after many years of marriage, they were driving and suddenly, the wife looks at the husband who is driving and says, "How come we don't cuddle together like in the beginning?" He said, "Well, who moved? I'm still where I am still. You moved." That's the question God is asking, "Who moved? I'm still where I am." "Lord, I don't feel Your presence." He says, "Who moved? I didn't move."

If you and I are not aware of sin; it's not that we will not sin; but we are not aware, we are complacent and we are easy about our sin, then we are drifting away from the convicting presence of the Holy Spirit. Remember. Don't drift away. It doesn't bother you anymore. It should bother you. One of my friends sent me this beautiful WhatsApp forward. It's a story about a man who is alcoholic. As usual, he came drunk, absolutely drunk. He was covered with puke and everything. The family manages to lift him and put him on the bed. Next day, when he wakes up in the morning; usually, they leave him like that. He wakes up in the morning, he is clean, he is dressed. He said, "What happened last night? I was still drunk." So, he calls his son and asks, "What happened? Who cleaned me up? Who changed me?" He said, "Mum did and she was crying all the while when she was changing you." He said, "What happened?" "Last night, she was taking your shirt off and you were so drunk and you opened your eyes and you held her hands and said 'lady, don't take off my shirt. I'm married' and she cried and she wept and said 'even when he is drunk, he is still loyal'. She cleaned you up." Do you see that? Learn to value things in life. Don't drift away from God. Don't drift away from the Body. Don't drift away from the Holy Spirit where you are no longer conscious. That's why I said – a drunk Uriah was more holy than a sober David. "Go drink and go to your wife." He says, "How can I do that, my lord? The ark is in the field. Israel is in the field. How can I go home?" Don't drift away. David had drifted away, so far away that he had lost the consciousness of sin and of the Spirit. Remember – we will all stand before God one day. All of us. The question He will ask is: what did you do with My Jesus? What did you do with Jesus?

In a court of law, you can plead guilty; you can plead innocent. If you plead innocent, then the court will say, "Okay, let the case proceed." The prosecution advocate will stand up and say, "I call witness number 1." Witness is sworn in; witness says, "That man is guilty because I am a witness." "Witness number 2!" "That man is guilty. I was there." Scripture says, "Everything has to be established in the mouth of at least two witnesses." When we all stand before God's court, if there is somebody here today who has come to the house of God for the first time and you are not a believer, when you stand before God, the first witness will stand up; that's an external witness. *Romans 1:20* says,

Drifters!

Romans 1:20

²⁰ For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,

No excuse. The whole creation will stand out there against that person and swear, “He is without excuse because we proclaim there is a Creator.” Second witness – *Romans 2:14-15*; not the external witness; the internal witness,

Romans 2:14-15

¹⁴ for when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do the things in the law, these, although not having the law, are a law to themselves, ¹⁵ who show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves their thoughts accusing or else excusing them)

Inside, your conscience comes out, sworn in and says, “I speak against him. He knew there was a God but never sought Him.” There is no escape because if you seek God, what is the answer? It’s not that you will find Him; which is true but the actual answer should – if you seek God, you will find Jesus. There is no way any man who truly seeks God will find Jesus because God has turned everything possible to lead man to Christ. There is external evidence; there is internal evidence and your conscience will cry and cry. If you went to the Old Testament and if you went to the temple any day, you would see tens and thousands of people all coming with blood and sacrifice. If you go to Banaras, Allahabad during those once in twelve years, millions and millions, every year, during Haj, why are everybody gathering? Because their conscience will not leave them alone, “You are a sinner. You need to find a solution for your sin.” But they keep on going every year except the Christian who knows, “I am free. Now, all I have to do is when He convicts me, I have to put it away but I am no longer guilty.” You cannot escape this. Then, when you are tired of going to the same place over and over and come back feeling guilty, you need to ask, “Lord, if You are real, there must be an answer to a permanent solution.” He says, “There is and He is called Jesus. On the Cross, He hung for you.” That’s what God is talking about. Keep approaching the light. Don’t walk away from the light. Keep approaching.

Mark 4:21-25. Jesus, one of His many parables, one of the beautiful ones.

Mark 4:21-25

²¹ Also He said to them, “Is a lamp brought to be put under a basket or under a bed...”

Now, of course, we don’t like lights so much. So, we have shades. In the old days, they wanted light. So, they put it on a stand. So, today’s century person would look up and say, “Yes, I put it under a basket.” Don’t do it. Scripture says,

...“Is a lamp brought to be put under a basket or under a bed? Is it not to be set on a lampstand? ²² For there is nothing hidden which will not be revealed, nor has anything been kept secret but that it should come to light. ²³ If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear.” (Just two lines in the parable. And He says, “Hear carefully.”) ***²⁴ Then He said to them, “Take heed what you hear. With the same measure you use, it will be measured to you; and to you who hear, more will be given. ²⁵ For whoever has, to him more will be given; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him.”***

You know what Jesus is talking about? He is saying, “This is the light. When I give you light, was it supposed to be kept under your pillow? Was it to be hidden. I did not give you My light to hide it; I gave My light so that it would reflect and you would walk in the light. It was not to be hidden.” And He says to the one who puts it in the lampstand and sees light, to him, He says,

²⁵ For whoever has (light), to him more (light) will be given; but whoever (hides the light) does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him.”

So, this is not an option. You either move further and further into the light, that is God; or you move further and further into spiritual darkness. So, you can either move like David into the light or like king Saul, move further and further into the darkness. Finally, falling headlong into the occult – the ultimate darkness. A man who was anointed by the prophet, a man

Drifters!

who had the Holy Spirit upon him, a man who was moved and was given a new heart, a man who won battles, a man who prophesied is now dwelling in darkness. Why? Because He said, "The light is not to be hidden." If you put it under a bed, you will lose it. Use it, you will have more. That's how God's Kingdom works. Everything in God's Kingdom works that way. It's not just light; everything of God works that way. Use it, you will have more. In the world, use it; you will have less. You know why you are not able to love? Because you don't love. The more you love people, the more love He will give you to love even more. That's how it works. The more you love, the more love He pours into your hearts. By the end, you are lying, hanging on the Cross and you are able to everybody and the first word, He says is, "Father, I love them so much. Please forgive them." If we were there, we would say, "Really? These guys? Look at You. They made You like that. Forgive them?" "Yes, I love them." Light works in the same way. You hide, you lose. If you put it up, you will be given more. The problem is – if you hide the light, you drift into darkness, little by little. Study the steps of how king Saul drifted little by little and then, falls headlong. Do you know what *Romans 1:21* says?

Romans 1:21

²¹because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

They knew God. Meaning – they had light. What did they do with the light? They hid the light. What did God do? He darkened their hearts. Light and darkness. On the other hand, if you keep on moving the light and keep on putting the light and say, "Lord, more of Your light," He will give you more. That's why I said – you can never ever be satisfied with the knowledge of God or your spiritual growth. Your spiritual growth is not a dead end. It can never be. That's what God is talking about. That's what the Holy Spirit does. He shines the light.

2 Corinthians 4:6

⁶For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

It's God. Because I still feel that many people read this at a text. It's not a text; it is the light of God; it is the Person of Jesus Christ. When you search for the Person who said, "I am the light," He says, "God, through His Spirit, will shine His light into our hearts that Christ is revealed even more and more." Then, in the midnight hour, probably, pitch dark, in a filthy Roman prison, in a little town called Philippi, when Paul and Silas are beaten, chained, legs tied to the stocks and lying over there, the light of Jesus Christ is shining even more in the darkness and they cannot help but worship. What? We think about light. Two thousand years ago, lights in a Roman prison at twelve midnight? Can you imagine? They were all listening, "Hallelujah, Stuti mahima," they are singing. Light is shining in darkness and the prisoners are listening. You think about light in terms of this, your testimony is light. And they were all listening. Man was listening, God was listening and the testimony of shone. The light of Christ shone. A little later, you have the man who locked them up, on his knees, asking the question, "What should I do to be saved? I am in darkness. How can I come to the light? Please." What did they say? "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ." Did you see how God works?

Finally, we drift away when we forget ending well is more important than a good start. Many people around the world, including here, had a good start. More important than a good start is a good end. That's why I said 2018, we are seventy days old. Meaning – the finish line is closer today than yesterday. In the world, you know what happens in the world? When retirement approaches, people slow down. "You are retiring. When?" "May 31st." They are already finishing off, clearing off their files and everything, and are packing. Slowly, when they are going home, little things are going home because, "These are all my things that need to go home." They are slowing down. In God's Kingdom, when the finish line approaches, you don't slow down; you speed. Your prayer life changes; your Word life changes; everything changes. You are not slowing down; you are speeding because you know the finish line is close by. Therefore, judge yourself. Am I drifting or am I speeding? Has my pace increased or have I slackened?

Read the *Book of Genesis*. Fifty chapters, begins with creation and ends with a funeral. In the middle of it is this incredible character called; not Abraham, Isaac or Joseph; but called Jacob. Incredible character – a man who reflects everybody. The quintessential man called Jacob who becomes Israel. Read *chapter 48 and 49*. In these chapters, in his last stage, Jacob is more prophetic and more spiritual and sees eternity more clearly than all the days of his life put together because at the end of his life, he is speeding. He sped so much that he overtakes Isaac, he overtakes his grandfather, Abraham; and he is

Drifters!

able to prophesy over his sons and say, “The blessings of your father are more than the blessings of your forefathers. He is no longer the God of Isaac and Abraham; the mighty God of Jacob.” Because he sped. The finish line is more important. If not, we are drifting away.

In Acts 20:24, Paul will sum up his entire life.

Acts 20:24

24 But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.

He said, “Two things – I want to finish my race with joy; I want to finish the work that He has given me.” That was one man who learnt from Jesus. Jesus was hanging on the Cross, looking for an opportunity. I believe He prayed for all of them and immediately, “Father, forgive them for they do not know what they are doing.” Father says, “I love You, Son. I love Your prayer. I’m going to answer it immediately.” The Holy Spirit, not just one thief; he looks and says, “Lord, have mercy.” He is merciful. Instant answer. Till His last breath, He is preaching the Gospel of grace. And Paul will say, “These chains have advanced the Gospel. Lying in different prisons, chained to Roman soldiers and soldiers are getting saved,” until Scripture says, “The Gospel has reached the elect, the Praetorian guard, Caesar’s own royal bodyguards.” The Gospel has reached them through a man in chains. I want to finish my race with joy and finish this work that God has given me. That’s what God is talking about. That’s our destiny. Everything else should fit into it. I’m not saying you shouldn’t study; I’m saying you should study hard, study well and be excellent for Him. Let Him use your studies. Don’t hold on to your studies. You have two Pastors who have got two files kept there in the locker with a pile of certificates. People have looked at my certificates and said, “Gasps! Pastor, you passed NET in 1993?” I said, “Yes, in one attempt.” “I’m still writing, still haven’t passed.” Pass all these exams. Put it in the altar. “It’s Yours. I have done my part, O Lord. I am an excellent student. I have worked hard to the best of my ability and here are my certificates. Now, use me. If You want me to be an engineer, I will be Your engineer. You want me to be a preacher? I will be Your preacher. Whatever You want me to be, I will be Yours.” Because people sometimes misunderstand that I mean that you should slacken and not study. No way Jose. You need to study and study hard but this is the core text that guides your life. This is your text; this is my text. Don’t drift away from this. Don’t drift away. Like I said, I am one of those old-time preachers – of the times when these lorries and buses did not have power steering. So, every Sunday, I have to turn the congregation back to Christ. Today’s preachers, fifteen minutes, they turn like this and go. I am not. I am an old-time preacher. I have to turn them back.

Closing Song: Salvation Belongs To Our God

Are you tired this morning? No? Are you tired? He is a God who gives us strength. It’s 11:30. I’ve been up from 3 in the morning. Yesterday was a full day. I didn’t have breakfast yesterday. I didn’t have lunch yesterday. I didn’t have dinner yesterday. I haven’t had breakfast today. I’ve only been on two bottles of lime juice. He is a God who excites us. Young people, remember – He is a God who excites us. He is the most exciting Person you will ever meet in life. Study well but never forget purpose – we are one in purpose and unity. Yes, Jeff? Purpose. You’ve entered in a new year and I have great hopes on you. Know God has called you. One day, you will hear Him. Study well. Be excellent. Put it on the altar because He put it all on the altar for us. Two fathers, two mountains – one father tied his son, lifted his knife; another Father said, “Stay your hand.” Another Father, His Son, He said, “Nail Him. Pierce Him.” He put everything on the altar for us. The only thing we can do is put everything back on the altar for Him. Amen? Shall we pray?

Closing Prayer:

Father, this morning, we just come to You. we come to You as blood washed children of the Living God. Your children, Your sons, Your daughters. Teach us. Show us Yourself, Lord. Help us in this life never ever to be satisfied with You; that we will long for more and more of You each day, Lord. Every day, Lord, let our testimony be that we love You a little more today. A little more. I commit Your Church into Thy hands – young and old. I commit all the young ones, especially, Lord. I pray, Lord, even now, today, You will lay Your hands upon them, Lord. Touch them, Lord. Turn their hearts back to You. all those whose hearts have turned back to the world, today, I pray, Lord, You will supernaturally touch them and bring to their remembrance of their commitments and Your love for them. Turn their hearts back to You and to those who are steadily walking with You, I pray You will draw them even more closer; that this year, as Your child prayed, will be a defining year for many, a year of destiny; that You will start placing the parts of the Body in its appropriate place, that they will start fulfilling

Drifters!

their purpose of God in their lives; that many, I pray, will hear clearly this year, O Lord. Touch, Lord; that we will learn to put things first in our lives; that we will have an answer to that question every day: what will I do with Jesus? Not hand Him over like Pilate, to be curious and to see for a sign like Herod, to mock like the soldiers, to replace with a thief like the mob, to sell Him for money like Judas, or deny Him for fear like Peter. The only answer to that question – what will I do with Jesus? – is, O Lord, we crown Him as King of our life, today, every day; for You proclaimed on the Day of Pentecost, “The Jesus whom you crucified, God has made Him both Lord and Savior.” We proclaim today over our lives as Lord of our lives, Lord of our Church, Lord of everything, Lord. Thank You, Father. Thank You. As we go to another week, I pray Your presence will go with each one of us and we long for Your presence and help us to stay in Your presence; that You would bless each one, bless the work of our hands and make us a blessing to others, O Lord. And I pray, in every heart, there will be a prayer, “Lord, help me to witness Christ to somebody this week.” We don’t know who. You open the door that I may share about Your love and Your goodness to somebody this week, O Lord, because this light cannot be hidden. This light has to be revealed for this a generation that is plunging head-long into utter darkness. You have given us the light. Help us not to hide the light, Lord, but to put it up on its lampstand that the whole world will see Christ and You will draw men, women and children to You, Lord. Thank You, Father. Thank You, Lord. Bless us. Make us a blessing. Thank You, Father. Now, by faith, believing the Blood has cleansed us, the Spirit has sanctified us and the Word of God has cleansed us, we lift up holy hands in Your house and we bless Your Holy Name, O Lord and we confess and we proclaim for Thin is the Kingdom, the power and the glory forever and ever, Amen.

Benediction:

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of the Father and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit rest and abide with each one of us, Amen.