

Reflections on 2018

by Wayne Goff

Brethren, We Are Drifting!

I am not talking about this congregation, per se, but the brotherhood in America in general. We are drifting away from the love of the truth, and are fulfilling the words of God through Paul in 2 Timothy 4:3-4, "...the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine,... and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables." This is not a **one-time** warning but a general truth when churches grow weary of fighting the good fight of faith (1 Tim. 6:12), and we begin to fail to see the gospel as "relevant" to our everyday lives. Brethren would rather hear about how to balance their check book, raise their children to be successful, and how to feel good about themselves — but the Bible is primarily about God's scheme of eternal redemption (Gen. 3:15, 12:1-3; 2 Sam. 7:12-14; Isaiah 7:14; Jer. 31:31-34; Matt. 1:21-23; Gal. 4:4), and that should be the main focus of preaching, teaching and the work of the church. (If those references above are not easily identifiable to you, then that makes my point!)

Signs that brethren are drifting include:

- Reducing the number of hours of preaching, teaching
- Drawing bigger crowds to an "area-wide singing" than to a gospel meeting
- Lethargy in hearing the gospel when we do assemble (compare Acts 10:33)
- Poor participation in Bible classes
- Poor knowledge of the Scriptures
- A silent "division" among churches where more Bible-based preachers are not welcome

Why is this the case? There are probably many reasons for them, but my observation is that we are overly blessed with material things (read Luke 8:14 and Israel's fate in Deuteronomy 8:11-14. [*The Good News is that we can recognize our condition and choose to love God and truth again!*](#))

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