

## Adrift

### I. Slide#1 [3rd only] **Announce:**

- A. Baby Dedication 3rd: Eric & Vanessa Murphy. Eric Gerard Murphy Jr. aka *Bubbas* [named by 6yr old sis]
- B. Slide#2 blank Children at Risk: today 3pm New Rm.
- C. Share what's happening next 2 weeks.

### II. Slide#3 **Intro:**

- A. I remember fishing in **Alaska** once. It was a stormy 24' swells, in a 17' boat. When you fish for **Halibut**, its best to **anchor**. We tried. **But soon**, when the tide surged, it slipped our anchor & there *it hung suspended above the seabed*. It wasn't long before we noticed...*we were adrift*.
  1. This morning we'll notice a number of **nautical terms** the writer will use in this chapt
  2. His main caution is...that we won't find ourselves *drifting* in our faith from **inattention** nor from **carelessness**.
- B. Title: *Adrift*
  1. Outline: **Lest we Drift Away; But we See Jesus; Captain of Our Salvation.**

### III. Slide#4 **LEST WE DRIFT AWAY (1-4)**

- A. (1) 2 nautical terms here:
  1. **Give/heed** = bringing a ship to land.<sup>1</sup>
    - a) Ps.107:30 **he brought them safely into harbor**. msg
  2. **Drift away** = *it was used for*: something slipping from one's memory; **or** of a ring slipping from one's finger; **or** of a ship drifting away.
  3. Slide#5a **Lest we drift away – 6 Things we should know about drifting:**
    - a) **Drifting requires no effort**
      - (1) "People seldom lose their religion by a **blowout** ...it is usually a **slow leak**."
    - b) Slide#5b **It's an unconscious effort** (you might not even know you are drifting / **eg.** Beach)
      - (1) **Drifting is not intentional**. It usually comes from **inattention & carelessness**.
        - (a) It happens quietly, no friction, no dramatic sense of departure.
        - (b) *Winds of trouble blow into your life, the things of Christ are left behind...then pretty soon...they are out of sight.*
    - c) Slide#5c **We never drift upstream or against the tide**
    - d) Slide#5d **The speed downstream increases** (when you hear the noise of the waterfall...it's too late)
    - e) Slide#5e **It is dangerous to others** (it's a hazard to all other vessels at sea)

<sup>1</sup> Linguistic Key to the Greek NT, Heb.2:1, pg.666

f) **Slide#5** It ends in shipwreck (it will crash on the rocks, or go over the falls)

B. **Slide#6** How are your moorings in Christ? (cables/ropes or frayed strings/tiny threads)

1. Some people who never consider walking in **darkness** *sure enjoy* a little stroll in the **shade**.
2. **Samson was asleep** when he lost his strength.
3. **Still water and still religion** freeze the quickest.
4. It's also scary to realize that most of the people who failed in Scriptures failed in the *second-half* of their lives.
5. How many people have you met that left Christianity because they *logically reasoned it through* & found it *full of holes & faulty*. – I think **most** simply drifted away.

C. **So what causes causes drifting?** Not giving careful attention to the Word of God.

1. **Slide#7** Robertson McQuilkin in his book **Let Me Get Home Before Dark** prays for himself, "I fear the Dark Specter may come too soon – or do I mean, too late?" That I should end before I finish or finish, but not well. That I should stain your honor, shame your name, grieve your loving heart. Few, they tell me, finish well...Lord, let me get home before dark."
2. **Slide#8** Have you drifted away from your early faith? Or from your fidelity to God? Consistent reading? Serious & passionate prayer times? Church attendance? Giving? Fellowship? Communion? Witnessing?

#### IV. **Slide#9 BUT WE SEE JESUS (5-9)**

A. This Psalm exalts the dignity of man.

1. Vs.5 should read "You have made him a little lower than God."
2. We are the greatest of God's creations, for we are *made in the image of God*.
3. **Why are we so messed up/mixed up today?**
  - a) Modern teaching has **lowered man** to an *animal* & **rejected** the *image of God*.
  - b) **No wonder** why we as humans have no problem discarding hundreds of thousand **human babies**, **yet** will spend millions of \$ to free a **beached whale**.
  - c) **No wonder** we have such civil unrest, so much brutality.
  - d) Mankind has dethroned God & debased humanity.
4. **Let us never forget** our **obligation** as **creatures** made in God's image, **and** our **greater obligation** as **saints** being renewed in this image through Christ.

- B. (6-8) Man *seems* even **smaller & insignificant** when we read the verse before it in Psalm 8  
 “When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, The moon and the stars, which You have ordained, what is man...”
- C. (6b & 7a) **Man’s position?** – We are **lower for a time** because of our physical body. [Thus we are limited because of **our body**, & have **less power**; but man is not lower **spiritually**, or in **importance**]
- D. (8b) **He put all...He left nothing that isn’t...really?**  
 1. He wants you to take exception...saying, **wait a minute**.
- E. (8c) Then he answers that it will one day, *it was God’s original intention*, man blew it, **but one day...one day**.  
 1. We don’t see all things put under him yet do we...**Hardly**. [earthquakes, floods, plagues, ebola]  
 2. At home I can’t even get **ants** under my subjection/dominion.  
 a) But I know what its going to feel like...**Wasps!** [I do have them under subjection]  
 3. The only way today we can achieve **dominion** over the animal world is by intimidation, **“Obey me or I’ll eat you or wear you!”** (Hughes)
- F. **Slide#10** (9) I love this transition: **we do not yet see** (8)...**But we see Jesus**.  
 1. Psalm 8 has its ultimate fulfillment **in Christ** – from the generic **son of man** (man), **to The Son of man** (**Jesus**) at Christ’s advent.  
 2. **Jesus was made for a little while lower** (while in His humanity)  
 a) **Now** crowned in glory & honor.  
 3. Oh I can’t see **little ol’ Brian** with all things put under my feet & crowned w/glory & honor – **but for now, I see Jesus!**

## V. **Slide#11 CAPTAIN OF OUR SALVATION (10-18)**

- A. (10) Some thought (& think) the concept of *a suffering-Savior-God* as a **completely unacceptable** & even an **inappropriate** way, to regard God.  
 1. Thus Paul said, **but we preach Christ crucified**, to the **Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness**. 1 Cor.1:23  
 2. Here, the author writes **it WAS fitting**.  
 3. **Note:** vs.10 is the key for the rest of the verses.  
 4. Alexander Maclaren, Creation was done with **a word & voila**, there it was & is, **but His speech wasn’t enough to effect salvation**. It took not **a word** but **The Word**. His Son incarnate who was **humiliated, who suffered, died, resurrected, ascended & is interceding** at the right hand of God.
- B. **Slide#12** (10b) Remember the scene in Captain Phillips when Muse 1st hijacks the *Maersk Alabama* cargo ship?

1. Muse: "Where is the crew?"
2. Captain Richard Phillips: "I don't know, I don't know. I'm here with you."
3. Muse: [on ship intercom] "In one minute I will kill all your friends."
4. Muse: "Where is your crew?!"  
Captain Richard Phillips: "I don't know! ... I am the captain. If you're gonna shoot somebody, you should shoot me!"
5. Muse: "Relax, everything going to be okay. Look at me."
6. Captain Richard Phillips: "Sure"
7. Muse: "Look at me"
8. Captain Richard Phillips: "Sure"
9. Muse: **"I'm the captain now."**

a) Are **you** the captain of your own ship? Have you surrendered it unto **Jesus**?  
Have you surrendered it **& then took it back**?

C. **Slide#13 Captain of their salvation** (many translations: leader, author, founder, hero, captain, champion, & pioneer)

1. In Gk. Writings it was used of **a hero who founded a city, gave its name, & became its guardian.**
  - a) Messianic name that was prophesied of the Christ **Mighty God** (Is.9:6) = El Gibbor [pictures God as a **warrior & champion**] (Lit.) "**Mighty Hero God**".
  - b) Also used as **the head of a family**; or **a founder of a philosophic school.**
  - c) The term also had a distinct **military connotation** referring to a **commander of an army who went ahead of his men & blazed the trail for them.**
    - (1) The idea here is of a leader who opens up **a new way.**
  - d) Think of a pioneer who blazed the trail of salvation that we can now follow.
    - (1) I remember **Randy Harvey** sharing w/me (If you didn't get to meet Randy he was a Missionary to Kosovo & b4 that a Marine for 21 years) He said, "**You never put your leader up front...the lead man is most vulnerable!**"
      - (a) I.e. the 1st man through the door, whether SWAT or military personnel clearing houses, the doorway is known as **the fatal funnel.** 1st guy through the door is obviously the most dangerous.
      - (2) **But that's the point here, Jesus** did exactly that, **He knowingly & willingly became the lead man, & took the bullet that we might be spared.**

D. **Slide#14** (14,15) **Did Satan ever have the power of death?** (I say no)

1. He surely didn't in Job 1:12 **Behold, all that he has is in your power; only do not lay a hand on his person.**

2. Rev.1:18 I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.
  3. Satan, via the sin in the garden, brings about man's *spiritual death*...but cannot bring about *physical death*.
- E. Slide#15 (16-18) Another way to keep them from *drifting* was to keep them **anchored**. Read 6:19
- F. Propitiation – To explain *man being reconciled to God* we use 2 words: Expiation & Propitiation
1. Propitiation emphasizes the **appeasement** of God's wrath and justice. [averting the wrath of God]
  2. Expiation emphasizes the **removal of guilt** (covering over) through a payment of the penalty.
    - a) Thus, the holiness of God is satisfied.
- G. Oh, precious Jesus – made in every way like man. And thus, *merci-full*, has suffered, able to aid us.
- H. Slide#16 (18) He was tempted to the very same sins into which we fall.
1. It is a **dark room** which you are going through, but Jesus went through it before.
  2. It is a **sharp fight** which you are waging, but Jesus has stood foot to foot with the same enemy.
  3. The **blood-stained footsteps** of the King of glory may be seen along the road which we traverse at this hour. Spurgeon
- I. Slide#17,18 Lewis Bayly's 17th century devotional handbook, *Practice of Piety*, ends w/a dialogue in which Christ explains to a soul the meaning of the cross. [I modernized it]
1. Soul: Lord, why did you allow Yourself to be **taken**, when You might have escaped Your enemies?
  2. Christ: So your enemies wouldn't **take** you, & cast you into the prison of utter darkness.
  3. Soul: Lord, why did you allow Yourself to be **bound**?
  4. Christ: So that I might **loose** the chains of your iniquities.
  5. Soul: Lord, why did you allow Yourself to be **lifted up** on a cross?
  6. Christ: So that I might **lift you up** with Me to heaven.
  7. Soul: Lord, why were Your **hands** nailed to the cross?
  8. Christ: To enlarge your **hands** to do works of righteousness.
  9. Soul: Lord, why were Your **feet** nailed to the cross?
  10. Christ: To set your **feet** free to walk in the ways of peace.
  11. Soul: Lord, why were Your **arms** nailed stretched out wide?

12. **Christ:** That I might **embrace** you more lovingly, My sweet soul.
13. **Soul:** Lord, why were Your **side** opened with a spear?
14. **Christ:** That you might have a way to **come near** to **My heart**.