THE NEW YEAR... A TIME OF LOOKING BACK – LOOKING NOW – LOOKING FORWARD

THE DRIFT: "To move slowly, especially as a result of outside forces, with no control over direction; someone or something that drifts changes in a gradual way that seems to be controlled by outside forces." CAMBRIDGE DICTIONARY

We **DRIFT SPIRITUALLY** by moving away from **CHRIST** and/or His **CHURCH**

THE PROBLEM WITH DRIFTING SPIRITUALLY

- SUBTLE
- UNINTENTIONAL
- HUMAN CONDITION

"Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God, He to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.

Prone to wonder, Lord I feel it, prone to leave the God I love

O to grace how great a debtor, daily I'm constrained to be!

Let thy goodness, like a getter, bind my wandering heart to thee."

ROBERT ROBINSON, COME THOU FONT OF EVERY BLESSING

"Be careful not to forget the Lord." DEUTERONMY 6:12

"Beware that in your plenty you do not forget the Lord your God and disobey his commands, regulations, and decrees..." DEUTERONOMY 8:11

"We must listen carefully to the truth we have heard, or we may drift away from it." HEBREWS 2:1

"Let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith." HEBREWS 12:1-2 "Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be." MATTHEW 6:21; LUKE 12:34

"MOST DRIFTERS DON'T SEE THE DANGER AHEAD!"

- 1 Deep and wide relationship **RELATIONAL RIPPLES**
- 2 Volitional SIN
- 3 Inability to hear the **VOICE** of God = "I love you!"

"Keep watch and pray, so that you will not give in to temptation. For the spirit is willing, but the body is weak." MATTHEW 26:41; MARK 14:38

"If you think you are strong, be careful not to fall." 1 CORINTHIANS 10:12

CAUSES OF SPIRITUAL DRIFT

- 1. BUSYNESS
- 2. COMPETING AFFECTIONS

"It's an amazing thing, when I drift away from God my schedule gets busier, and busier, and fuller, and fuller." CHIP INGRAM

"Do not love this world nor the things it offers you, for when you love the world, you do not have the love of the Father in you." 1 JOHN 2:15

"Don't be so concerned about perishable things like food. Spend your energy seeking the eternal life that the Son of Man can give you." JOHN 6:27

"No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and be enslaved to money." MATTHEW 6:24; LUKE 16:13

WHAT GETS OUR ATTENTION OR OUR AFFECTION GETS US

THE SOLUTION TO SPIRITUAL DRIFTING

- RO-BOOT = start over
- **RE-CALIBRATE** = course correct
- **RE-UP** = affirm your commitment

^{*}Unless otherwise noted, all scripture references are from the New Living Translation of the Bible