Moving Away From God

When one obeys the gospel of Christ, one begins to walk with God moving in the right direction. Rising up from baptism, we begin to "walk in newness of life" (Romans 6:4). Newness of life indicates a change of direction, moving with God at His direction, according to His will. As long as we move with God at His direction, in the new life, we "go on to perfection" (Hebrews 6:1).

The Hebrew writer is writing to Christians who have moved away from God. The writer initially exhorts these Hebrew Christians by stating, "Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away" (Hebrews 2:1).The image he paints is most vivid. Picture a boat that is properly secured to the dock. As long as the boat is secured, the boat is safe as its direction is stable. Should the boat be loosed from the dock and drifts into the open water, danger looms. Danger as the boat now can be "tossed to and fro" (Ephesians 4:14), over turned, or whisk away and smashed into rocks. It is most likely that these Hebrew Christians did not initially intend to undo the knot that secured them to God. Rather they drifted slowly away, some to the point of no return (Hebrews 6:4-6). The Hebrew writer helps us understand that moving away from God is catastrophic.

Consider the churches in Galatia. The Apostle Paul himself had converted many of these Christians. Paul even notes their eagerness to move forward when they initially obeyed the gospel, saying, "you ran well" (Galatians 5:7). However, they allowed Judaising teachers into the fold and the efforts of those false teachers caused some Christians to move away from God. Their moving away from God caused Paul to marvel, not in a good way, at their actions. "I marvel that you are

turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, into a different gospel" (Galatians 1:6). Paul helps us understand that moving away from God is catastrophic.

Yes, moving away from God is catastrophic. Many times Christians begin to move away and the drift is so slow that they do not realize it until it is too late. We would each do well to consider our actions as a Christian each day and perhaps look back at our actions at the end of the day. Did I remember to pray? Did I take time to study? Did I determine to meditate on those things that are noble and pure (Philippians 4:8), did I repent of any sin that I allowed into my life (1 John 1:9, 2 Corinthians 4:16). The idea of reflecting may also prove beneficial considering what I must accomplish each week, namely: Gathering with other Christians to worship God (Acts 20:7, 1 Corinthians 11:18), giving as God has prospered me (1 Corinthians 16:1), and commemorating my Savior's death (1 Corinthians 11:23-26, Acts 20:7).

Moving away from God is catastrophic. There is no logical reason that any of us should experience such catastrophe.