



Newsletter

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- Up Words # 39

DEADLY DRIFT



The strawberries were producing marvelously. Blueberries were picked that morning and were anxiously anticipated atop the next day's breakfast cereal. And then the tomato plants were looking really good too. No doubt the wet and cooler than normal spring had been a boost to all the garden plants. Zucchini was looking good, green beans were up and flourishing and so too the peas and corn. This was a wonderful garden ... until that deadly drift came.

My sister and her husband have been gardening for years; in all, about 25 years at their current home in Seymour. Their backyard is bordered by a large farm field and at about this time every year that field is treated for weeds. However this year when they sprayed the field with Roundup there was a stiff wind blowing toward the back of my sister's house. Sadly, their garden died, their grass browned and their trees and shrubs shriveled ... all because of a deadly drift.

I wonder if we're ever affected by a deadly drift? How is our spiritual vitality affected by the winds of worldliness that swirl around us? I Corinthians 15:33 warns us, "Do not be deceived: Bad company corrupts good morals." You see the problem we face when we get around the things that can kill our spiritual lives, is thinking that they won't affect us. We sometimes arrogantly believe we are more sin-resistant than what we really are. Ephesians 5:11-12 instructs us, "Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them; for it is disgraceful even to speak of the things which are done by them in secret." And yet, don't we sometimes find ourselves amid the darkness, not shining as a light, but struggling to keep our flickering flame from going out? When we participate with evil or speak approvingly of wickedness, that deadly drift is dangerously close. We are foolish to think it won't affect us.

Then too, I wonder if we might sometimes be the source of that deadly drift? In I Corinthians 8:9 Paul reminds the Corinthians to "take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak." He goes on to say, "And so, by sinning against the brethren and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ." The inconsiderate use of our Christian liberties can have a deadly affect on others.

May God help us to carefully, prayerfully consider the dangers around us and avoid a deadly drift.

Looking Up,
Pastor Chuck Circle