**LEST WE DRIFT AWAY**

***The Law of Entropy At Work***

I was a terrible student in science class. Any prospect I ever had of becoming a dentist (my first thought of a career) was quickly dispelled when I discovered you had to make good grades in biology, chemistry, anatomy and other studies in natural sciences. So you can imagine that I was truly lost when I first heard of words like the Law of Thermodynamics or the Law of Entropy. You might as well have been speaking in Swahili. It was over my head.

Even though I made C’s and D’s in science it doesn’t mean I couldn’t understand things when they were shown to me. So, my mother showed me the meaning of Entropy. She took me to my bedroom and said, “Richard Earl, look at this mess. I want you to clean it up, now!” Like any normal kid I would balk at any suggestion that it needed cleaning. After all, I had just cleaned it the week before! She would then point out the four shirts, three pants, eight socks, five shoes (I lost one), and nine pairs of underwear that were scattered over, in, and under my bed. She directed my attention to the dresser drawers opened with things hanging out. She made me look in my closet stuffed with “stuff,” and then asked why my school books were left willy-nilly on the window seal, on top of the lamp and even supporting one of the chair legs. Even Clarence the Angel 2nd Class would have his work cut out to earn his wings with me.

Since I shared the room with my brother I could always blame it on Ron, but the evidence was against me (mom wrote our names on the waistband of our underwear, imagine that). Standing there looking at the aftermath of the tornado that had come through my bedroom I could not deny that my once clean room had somehow, someway, by “someone,” deteriorated into a disorganized, degenerated, disordered, disarrayed and decaying disaster of destruction! How did that happen?

That picture of chaos defined what no textbook could teach me about the meaning of the Law of Entropy. Things left to themselves (or, in this case, left to me) decline. They do not get better by themselves. That room was not going to get cleaned by wishful thinking, which meant that my faith in the power of positive thinking was not going to work this time. If I dusted my desk and vacuumed my floor it would need dusting and vacuuming again next week. If I left my bike out in the weather, it would rust. If I built a treehouse in our pecan tree and didn’t continually paint it, it would rot. Entropy.

As in the natural world, so in the spiritual world, the Law of Entropy is ever at work. Things, left to themselves, fall into a state of decay. It takes outside energy to counter the Law of Entropy. That works in my individual Christian life, as well as in our corporate church life. If I don’t “do something” about my faith, then it will decline into disorder. If we don’t “do something” about our God-given organization and work in this church then it will also slowly dissolve into apostasy. Just look around, Satan has made sure that the spiritual “Law of Entropy” has devastated both the individual and the church.

Sin leads us ever downward into a state of damnation. When we sinned our life fell into a state of ruin. Quoting David in Psalm 14:1-3 Paul wrote in Romans 3:10-12,

*10 As it is written: “There is none righteous, no, not one;
11 There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God.
12 They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable;
 There is none who does good, no, not one.”*

In other words we had all “*sinned and fallen short of the glory of God*” (Rom. 3:23). Chaos reigned. Our life had become a mess. Unless an outside “Energy” was brought to the scene, then we were doomed to destruction in a devil’s hell. We were all in a vortex spiraling downward from which we could not escape. That outside “Energy” came to this world of sin and sorrow and saved us. The “Life” and “Light” of the world came in the person of Immanuel, “God with us” (Jn. 1:1-3; Matt. 1:23). The Word became flesh and dwelt among us (Jn. 1:14). God had stepped into our mess and brought order out of chaos (Phil. 2:5-11). “*Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift”* (2 Cor. 9:15).

When we confessed Christ as our “Savior” we were saying the Law of Entropy had been broken. Order had come from Chaos. Jesus had restored our spiritual temple which had laid in ruins. Our temple was once again “holy” and in order (I Cor. 6:19-20). We were now members of the Body of Christ (I Cor. 12:27). We have been called to keep our body, and His body (the church), clean and holy. Our life is to be kept free from sin. But, as we all know, the Law of Entropy did not go away at baptism.

I have the responsibility to keep my personal life from falling back into chaos. The author of Hebrews warned those Christians, and now us, “*But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul”* (Heb. 10:39). *“Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away.”* (Heb. 12:1)

Did you hear that? “*lest we drift away*.”

Apostasy is seldom a tornado that suddenly levels your house, it is more like termites which silently, but surely, destroy your foundation and cause your house to fall. Not in a moment, but over time, we “drift away.” A lust of the eye begins to lead you into thoughts which gradually breaks down your resolve to live pure. It grows into an addiction which leads to pornography, which leads to fornication or adultery. Your “drifting” led you to the swifter currents which took you to the waterfalls which plunged you to your death. That’s spiritual Entropy.

“*We are not of those who draw back …
“We must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard*…”

While General Science was hard for me, I have decided to study the Law of Entropy so that I can learn what is at work in the spiritual world that causes me to sin. By giving earnest heed to Christ’s instruction, and trusting Him to help me, I can be among that blessed number who don’t draw back or drift away.

And who knows, it might even help me keep my room clean. - Rick