Randy started the sermon with the story of a young preacher who once concluded his message by challenging the congregation with the Rudyard Kipling’s poem “If…”. The young preacher concludes the poem with I

*If you can fill the unforgiving minute*

*With sixty seconds’ worth of distance run,*

*Yours is the Earth and everything that’s in it,*

*And—which is more—you’ll be a Man, my son!*

And just before this pastor bowed his head for prayer, a voice on the back row shouted back, “***What if you can’t?!***”

1. At what point of circumstances would think that people are more likely to say, “What if I can’t” rather than “Yes, just give me another task.”?
2. Randy said that Nehemiah 13:4-14 “screams, “what if I can’t?”, how does that passage contrast Nehemiah 12:27-43?
3. Randy said that Israel is “addicted to compromise”. Can you describe the compromise event and the subsequent domino effect that had on the spiritual life of Israel?
4. Where is Nehemiah? How long would it take for this change in the spiritual life?

The Drift

Randy talked about the Drift, he said, “People do not drift toward godliness. Apart from grace-driven effort, people do not gravitate toward godliness, prayer, and obedience to Scripture, faith, and delight in the Lord.”

1. Do you think this is true? Would you describe the last of chapter 13 as a drift from Nehemiah 10:29-33.
2. When Nehemiah came back, how did he address the drift?
3. If you were going to color a picture that described this scene what colors would you use?
4. Describe a time, not necessarily a spiritual drift away, but any kind of drift away from the things you want to keep doing. How did you get off-track? How did you get back on track?

The Book “Change or Die” talks about the 3 keys of change:

* 1. Relate: Someone to give you hope
  2. Repeat: Learning and practicing the habits and skills for the new change
  3. Reframe: A new way of thinking about your situation and life.

The Change

1. Randy talked about the hope of Grace, that Christmas is the invasion of Grace upon this world. How is the advent an “invasion of grace”?
2. How does Isaiah 54:7 reflect the invasion of grace?
3. If the set of activities described in Titus 2:11-14 can get us back on track is there a danger here? If there is, how can we avoid the danger?