SPIRITUAL DROPOUTS # 1

INTRODUCTION:
1. Parents and school systems all over the land are concerned about school dropouts. 
   A. And they rightfully should be.
2. But there should be a greater concern when it comes to the church and the number of spiritual dropouts that we experience.
   A. It has been said by some that the church loses 50% of its new members within the first seven years following their conversion.
   B. If this is true, then the number is staggering.
3. The N.T. teaches the possibility of such - Galatians 6:1; 2 Timothy 4:10; James 5:19, 20; 2 Peter 2:20, 21.
4. Let’s notice some reasons why men leave God and become spiritual dropouts.

BODY:
1. THEY FAIL TO COUNT THE COST
2. THEY FAIL TO LISTEN TO GOD’S MESSENGER
   A. Consider 2 Timothy 4:1-6.
      1. Why did Paul write this?
      2. Because some would become spiritual dropouts.
3. THEY FAIL TO DEVELOP CHRISTIAN VIRTUES
   A. Consider 2 Peter 1:5-8, 10.
      1. Dropouts fail to add these to their lives.
   B. They fail to add what is needed to make them strong.
      1. Things like:
         A. Patience
         B. Brotherly kindness
4. THEY FAIL BECAUSE OF WRONG ASSOCIATIONS
   A. This was Solomon’s problem - 1 Kings 11:4.
   B. Evil companions corrupt good lives - 1 Corinthians 15:33.
      1. Either good or evil will rule our lives.
      2. We sow to the spirit or we sow to the flesh - Galatians 6:8.
5. THEY FAIL DUE TO THE DEMANDS OF LIFE
   B. How often do we put temporal things before Spiritual?
   C. How serious are we about seeking first the kingdom of God? - Matthew 6:33.
   D. We must remember that the things of the world will soon pass away - 1 John 2:15-17.
   E. We have to remember that we are only passing through this world on the way to eternity - Hebrews 11:13; 1 Peter 2:11.
6. THEY FAIL DUE TO THE DECEITFULNESS OF SIN
   B. To stay the course we must never drop our guard.