

There's No Escape!

Introduction

Scripture Reading: Matthew 25:31-46

1. The word “escape” suggests the idea of “fleeing from, or avoiding something.”
2. There are many things we can escape, flee from, and avoid.
 - A. The Bible even commands that we do so. For example:
 - “Flee sexual immorality” (1 Corinthians 6:18)
 - “the love of money” (1 Timothy 6:11)
 - “Flee youthful lusts” (2 Timothy 2:22)
 - “Flee from idolatry” (1 Corinthians 10:14)
3. On the other hand, there are certain things we all face, and will experience, that none of us can escape and avoid.
 - A. We might disbelieve, ignore, neglect, or even be ignorant, or despise them, but such does not free us from the inevitable.
 - B. These things are of the utmost importance because they pertain directly to our soul and its destiny.

Personal Responsibility

1. First and foremost, we all are personally responsible to God. He has always held man responsible.
 - A. In this age, we must come to God through Jesus Christ.

John 14:6 Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”

B. We are all responsible to Christ's law.

1 Corinthians 9:21 to those who are without law, as without law (not being without law toward God, but under law toward Christ), that I might win those who are without law;

C. This is true regarding what one must do to be saved. Christ is the Savior and He has the right to tell us what His terms are.

- 1) We must make up our own minds as to what we will do in response to those terms. No one can obey them for us.
- 2) We might choose to ignore or reject these laws, but that in no way frees us from them.

John 8:24 Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins.

2. As Christians we all have the personal responsibility to remain faithful to the Lord.**Revelation 2:10**

A. Likewise, Christians are responsible personally in helping save souls. (2 Timothy 2:2; 1 Peter 3:15; James 5:19-20).

B. Parents have a personal responsibility to train their children. Children have a personal responsibility to obey their parents.

Ephesians 6:1-4**3. Sadly, we are living in an age where few people are willing to take responsibility for their own actions and their own lives.**

A. People like to pass the buck and play the blame game. People like to blame others for their mistakes, problems, and sins.

4. God holds us responsible for our own choices.**Ezekiel 18:20**

Our Influence Upon Others

1. All of us have an influence upon others. It may be good or bad, but one or the other is inevitable.

A. Our life is “an epistle known and read by all men.”

2 Corinthians 3:2 You are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read by all men;

B. We are warned that “evil company corrupts good habits or character.” (1 Corinthians 15:33).

2. We are also encouraged that we are to be a good influence on others, in that we are “to give no offense, either to the Jews or to the Greeks or to the church of God.” (1 Corinthians 10:32).

3. We must be “the salt of the earth” and “lights in the world”
Matthew 5:13-16

Philippians 2:15 that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,

The Presence of God

1. **We may hide our sins from others to protect our influence and reputation, but we cannot hide our sins from God.**

Proverbs 15:3 The eyes of the LORD are in every place, Keeping watch on the evil and the good.

Proverbs 5:21 For the ways of man are before the eyes of the LORD, And He ponders all his paths.

Job 31:4 Does He not see my ways, And count all my steps?

A. **While people may wish to flee from the all-seeing eye of God, there is no place to go. Jonah tried (Jonah 1:3).**

B. **David understood this truth**
Psalms 139:1-12

2. **Since God searches our heart and understands all the intents of our thoughts (1 Chronicles 28:9), we must strive to:**

2 Corinthians 10:5bring every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ

3. **These truths should restrain us from sinning, and cause us to guard our thoughts, words, and deeds. This truth we cannot escape is clearly pointed out for us in the words “watching You.”**

All along on the road to the soul's true abode,
 There's an eye watching you;
 Every step that you take this great Eye is awake,
 There's an Eye watching you
 Watching you, watching you,
 Every day – mind the course you pursue.

The Consequences of Sin

1. **We cannot sow one thing and reap another. To the Galatians, Paul penned the following words:**
Galatians 6:7-8
 - A. **This is true in the plant kingdom as well as in the spiritual realm. Spiritually speaking, “the wages of sin is death” (Romans 6:23).**
 - 1) **But it is also true that God offers the gift of salvation through the shed blood of His Son Jesus Christ.**
2. **Paul begins with “Be not deceived; God is not mocked.” Hence, do not be misled, or lead astray.**
 - A. **Although man turns up his nose at and treats God contemptuously, as if he can outwit God, the deception is that of man thinking that he can sow one kind of life and reap another kind (to live the life of the wicked and die the death of the righteous).**
3. **People may choose a life of lawlessness, sin and shame, but remember God is never mocked, and sin always pays its wages!**
4. **Our sins can be forgiven, but the Bible never promises the removal of the physical consequences of our sins.**
 - A. **For example, those who commit sexual immorality can be forgiven, but they will still face the physical consequences of that lifestyle.**

Death Is an Inevitable Fact That We All Must Face

1. **We all have an appointment with death unless the Lord returns first. Cemeteries are daily reminders of this.**
 - A. **We can try to postpone this appointment with healthy choices, but death will eventually come to all.**
Hebrews 9:27

Ecclesiastes 9:5 For the living know that they will die; But the dead know nothing, And they have no more reward, For the memory of them is forgotten.

Romans 5:12 Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned—

2. **Death is a sobering thought and as we age, we think of it more often and more seriously. The question is: **am I prepared for death?****
 - A. **The time of death we do not know. It's uncertain. Today? Tomorrow? Next month? Next year? In the distant future? We do not know.**
 - 1) **But one thing we do know-it is possible for us to be prepared for death and we can die the death of the righteous rather than the death of the unrighteous.**
 - 2) **We do have a choice as to how we will die-prepared or unprepared!**
 - B. **We sing the song: "Careless soul...O heed the warning...For your life will soon be gone...O how sad to face the judgment... ..Unprepared to meet thy God."**

3. **"Death is an officer that cannot be bribed." However, we can conquer it through Jesus Christ by means of His gospel.**

The Judgment

1. **The latter part of Hebrews 9:27 is: “After this the judgment.”**

Acts 17:30-31

2 Corinthians 5:10 For **we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ**, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

2 Timothy 4:1 I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, **who will judge the living and the dead** at His appearing and His kingdom:

John 5:22, 27-29

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man's all. For **God will bring every work into judgment**, Including every secret thing, Whether good or evil.

2. **Judgment is coming! There is no excuse for anyone not to make preparation for that great day.**

Conclusion

1. **We can, by our own choice, by faith and obedience, gain everlasting life in heaven and escape everlasting punishment in hell.**
2. **At death, our destiny is sealed; there will be no second chance, only the judgment and the time of the recompense according to our deeds while we live!**
3. **Don't wait until tomorrow. There is NO ESCAPE if you put off salvation and live faithful until death.**

