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**MISSING
THE
GREAT ESCAPE**

HOW SHALL WE ESCAPE?

Hebrews 2:3

“How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him;”

WHO, HERE, LIKES TO ESCAPE OR AVOID DANGER?

What could prevent escape?

- No warning**
- Not believing the Warning**
- Postponing response to the warning**
- No ability to escape**
- Treating current activities as more urgent than escape.**

INTRODUCTORY THOUGHTS

**There is a real
danger facing
all mankind.**

INTRODUCTORY THOUGHTS

-Shortly after creation God warned Adam of it.

Genesis 2:17 -- "...of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die."

INTRODUCTORY THOUGHTS

-Since then, death has been irrevocably ushering humans into one of two eternal destinies.

Hebrews 9:27 “... it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:”

INTRODUCTORY THOUGHTS

-One of those two destinies is so horrible all people should want to escape it.

Matthew 25:41 & 46 – “Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: ... And these shall go away into everlasting punishment:”

INTRODUCTORY THOUGHTS

- Your handout has a link, at the bottom, to:**
 - The tract “HOW SHALL WE ESCAPE,”**
 - One page version of the tract,**
 - An electronic copy of your handout,**
 - The full notes from which I’m speaking,**
 - PowerPoint slides for this lesson,**
 - Audio Recording of lesson (in a week or so).**

OVERVIEW OF LESSON

- 1. Neither devils nor people deserve salvation.**
- 2. God suffered greatly in providing this salvation.**
- 3. If you neglect this costly salvation you have no hope!**

1. Neither devils nor people deserve salvation.

-Adam's sin introduced sin and death to all mankind

--Romans 5:12 – “Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

1. Neither devils nor people deserve salvation.

-Devils were never offered salvation – they know it and tremble!

--James 2:19 -- “Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.”

1. Neither devils nor people deserve salvation.

-Trembling devils appear in the Gadarene demoniac

--Matthew 8:29 -- “And, behold, they cried out, saying, What have we to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God? art thou come hither to torment us before the time?”

1. Neither devils nor people deserve salvation.

-Most of humanity will join the tormented devils.

--Matthew 25:41 -- “Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:”

1. Neither devils nor people deserve salvation.

-How do we know most people will join the devil and his angels?

--Matthew 7:13-14 -- 13 “Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: 14 Because strait [narrow] is the gate, and narrow [troubled] is the way, which leadeth unto life, and **few there be that find it.**”

1. Neither devils nor people deserve salvation.

-How do we know most people will join the devil and his angels? (CONTINUED)

--Jesus refers to this strait gate and narrow way when someone asked if its true that only few shall be saved;

**--- Luke 13:23-24 -- “23 Then said one unto him, Lord, are there few that be saved? And he said unto them,
24 Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able.”**

EXAMPLE: NYC SUBWAY TURNSTYLE

2. God suffered greatly in providing this salvation

-The Serpent in the wilderness illustrates this this

--John 3:14 -- “And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up:”

---Why is Christ represented by a serpent?

---It is because He was bearing serpent-initiated sins on the cross.

2. God suffered greatly in providing this salvation

-Christ bore punishment for our sins -- not His own.

--1 Peter 2:24 -- “Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.”

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2. God suffered greatly in providing this salvation

-Our sins, which He bore, were so odious to the Father that He turned His face away from His Son during those hours of darkness.

--Prophesied by the Psalmist

---Psalms 22:1 -- “My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? why art thou so far from helping me, and from the words of my roaring?”

--Prophecy fulfilled!

---Matthew 27:46 -- “And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? That is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?” (repeated in Mark 15:24)

2. God suffered greatly in providing this salvation

-It was an INFINITE payment!

--Because God's holiness is infinite, each sin against him is an infinite infraction against infinite righteousness and earns infinite punishment.

--Multiply this by the many sins of each of God's chosen, and we have an incomprehensibly infinite penalty.

--Our minds cannot even grapple with this enormity.

---Example: - Dad contemplating the enormity of space.

-Christ bore this infinite punishment on the cross.

THIS IS TRULY A GREAT SALVATION!!!

3. If you neglect this costly salvation you have no hope!

-Reiterate theme verse

--Hebrews 2:3 -- *“How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him;”*

3. If you neglect this costly salvation you have no hope!

-Peter' realization: Jesus had told his followers that they had no ability to come to Him unless it was given to them by His Father.

--John 6:65 -- "And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father."

3. If you neglect this costly salvation you have no hope!

-Peter' realization (continued): Jesus had told his followers that they had no ability to come to Him unless it was given to them by His Father.

--John 6:65 -- “And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father.”

---Spiritually dead --no desire to choose Christ

---This is why God repeatedly refers to “The Elect”

---Offensive to Jesus' “followers”

----John 6:66 -- “From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him.”

---Fallen man resents being told he doesn't have a sovereign free will.

3. If you neglect this costly salvation you have no hope!

-Peter' realization (continued):

-In response to this, Jesus asked His twelve disciples if they would also leave.

--John 6:67 -- “Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away?”

--Peter's Response:

---John 6:68-69 -- “68 Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life. 69 And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God.”

SUMMARY

-Peter realized that, without Christ, salvation is impossible. There was no other way to obtain forgiveness and salvation.

-Anyone who dies having rejected or neglected this great salvation, shall be doomed forever!

-God the Son, Jesus Christ, the crucified, risen and ascended Lamb is the ONLY SAVIOR

--John 14:6 -- Jesus saith unto him [Thomas], I am the way, the truth, and the life:

NO MAN COMETH UNTO THE FATHER, BUT BY ME.

Closing Comments

NOTE: The following items associated with this lesson can be obtained at the link below

- A copy of your handout for this lesson
- Full lesson notes with Scripture texts and references
- audio recording of this lesson (in a week or so)
- PowerPoint slides for this lesson
- The article “HOW SHALL WE ESCAPE” (single page format)
- The article “HOW SHALL WE ESCAPE” (Tract format)

<http://lightingdarkness.com/missing-the-great-escape-sermon/>