

HOW CAN WE ESCAPE?

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To “escape” means “to flee” (Gk. *pheugo* – cp. Eng. *fugitive*). One seeks to escape when he is in a situation he does not want to be in. There may be a way of escape provided, or there may not. The Bible says that there is something we can escape from, and another thing that we cannot escape from. Understanding divine truth on these matters will encourage us to make the proper decisions in life and walk according to God’s will.

WHAT WE CAN ESCAPE – SIN

Man’s spiritual enemy, Satan, will marshal every temptation possible to entice us to sin against God. God has made a promise to the Christian: *“No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it”* (1 Cor. 10:13). God provides a way of escape from temptation so that we will not fall into sin. If I sin, it is by my choice – I am not forced to sin. I can choose not to sin and to do that which is right – this is how we can take “the way of escape.”

Those who have become Christians are said to have *“escaped from those who live in error”* and *“escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ”* (2 Pet. 2:18, 20). Only through Christ can we escape the bondage of sin and continually have access to a way of escape from temptation. But if we are not careful, we can become *“again entangled in them [pollutions of the world] and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning”* (v. 20). Once we have escaped the deadly clutches of sin, we should make every effort to never be entangled in that life again.

WHAT WE CANNOT ESCAPE – GOD’S JUDGMENT ON SINNERS

The person who stubbornly persists in a life of sin and wickedness needs to understand that he will not escape the wrath of God’s judgment on sin. *“But we know that the judgment of God is according to truth against those who practice such things [sin]. And do you think this, O man, you who judge those practicing such things, and doing the same, that you will escape the judgment of God?”* (Rom. 2:2-3). Those who condemn sin, yet still practice it, will not escape the judgment of God.

We must give close attention to the Word that is the power of salvation. We must not only listen, but also *“give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away. For if the word spoken through angels prove steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation...?”* (Heb. 2:1-3a). God’s Word provides all the knowledge and wisdom needed to guide us through life. *“See that you do not refuse Him who speaks. For if they did not escape who refused Him who spoke on earth, much more shall we not escape if we turn away from Him who speaks from heaven”* (Heb. 12:25). There will be no escape from the righteous judgment of God.

Continue in sin and you will not escape God’s wrath. But if you heed the word of salvation, you can escape the clutches of sin and find hope in the grace of God.