

“The Way of Escape”

Hebrews 2:1-3

1

“The Way of Escape”

“For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away from it. For if the word spoken through angels proved unalterable, and every transgression and disobedience received a just penalty, how will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? After it was at the first spoken through the Lord, it was confirmed to us by those who heard ...”

(Hebrews 2:1-3)

2

Possibility of Falling Away

The Warnings of the Text:

“Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God.”

(Hebrews 3:12)

*“Therefore let us be diligent to enter that rest, so that no one will fall, through following the same example of disobedience.” **(Hebrews 4:11)***

Possibility of Falling Away

The Warnings of the Text:

“For in the case of those who have once been enlightened and have tasted of the heavenly gift and have been made partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, and then have fallen away, it is impossible to renew them again to repentance, since they again crucify to themselves the Son of God and put Him to open shame.”

(Hebrews 6:4-6)

Possibility of Falling Away

The Warnings of the Text:

*“For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a terrifying expectation of judgment and the fury of a fire which will consume the adversaries.” **(Hebrews 10:26-27)***

Possibility of Falling Away

The Warnings of the Text:

“But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how is it that you turn back again to the weak and worthless elemental things, to which you desire to be enslaved all over again?”

(Galatians 4:9)

*“You have been severed from Christ, you who are seeking to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace.” **(Galatians 5:4)***

Possibility of Falling Away

The Warnings of the Text:

*"Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air; but I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified."
(1 Corinthians 9:26-27)*

Emergency Escape!

- Some things we need to know:
 - **Where** it is!
 - **When** to use it!
 - **Why** to use it!
 - **How** to use it!

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God Provides The Way Of Escape!

*"No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it."
(1 Corinthians 10:13)*

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What is Temptation?

- It is a trial, a test of one's faithfulness.

"Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials ..." (James 1:2)

"In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, so that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ ..." (1 Peter 1:6-7)

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What is Temptation?

- No test without a choice.

*"Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness? But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed, and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness."
(Romans 6:16-18)*

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Temptation Defined

- to test (objectively), i.e. endeavor, scrutinize, entice, discipline:-assay, examine, go about, prove, tempt(-er), try.
 - Strong
- Abraham was tried. **Genesis 22:1-13**
 - **Hebrews 11:17; James 2:21-22**

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Entice

- Greek – **Deleazo**:
 - Strong's – to entrap, allure, beguile, entice. **Genesis 3:13**
 - Thayer – to bait, to catch by bait.
- Satan uses **bait** to catch us!
 - “**schemes**” (trickery)
 - “Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.” (**Ephesians 6:11**)

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Who or What Tempts Us?

• Not God!

- He does not tempt us!

*“Let no one say when he is tempted, ‘I am being tempted by God’; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone.” (**James 1:13**)*

- God is the source of all good things!

*“Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.” (**James 1:17**)*

*“This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all.” (**1 John 1:5**)*

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Who or What Tempts Us?

• God allows us to be tried!

*“The LORD said to Satan, ‘Have you considered My servant Job? For there is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, fearing God and turning away from evil.’ Then Satan answered the LORD, ‘Does Job fear God for nothing? Have You not made a hedge about him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. But put forth Your hand now and touch all that he has; he will surely curse You to Your face.’ Then the LORD said to Satan, ‘Behold, all that he has is in your power, only do not put forth your hand on him.’ So Satan departed from the presence of the LORD.” (**Job 1:8-12**)*

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Progression of Temptation!

• “Fruit of Temptation”= **SIN then DEATH!**

*“But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death.” (**James 1:14-15**)*

*“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (**Romans 6:23**)*

16

We Must Not Love the World

*“Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.” (**1 John 2:15-17**)*

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Three “Points” of Temptation

• **1 John 2:15-17**

- **Lust of the flesh** - fleshly desire
- **Lust of the eyes** - looks good
- **Pride of life** - a reason to glory
- Used by the Devil from the beginning!
 - **Genesis 3:1-6**

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Three "Points" of Temptation

"For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate." (Genesis 3:5-6)

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Genesis 3:6 Analyzed

- **"good for food"** Lust of the flesh
- **"a delight to the eyes"** Lust of the eyes
- **"desirable to make one wise"** Pride of life
- "... she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate" (Genesis 3:6b) (cf. Romans 6:23)

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Question?

- Is it a sin to be tempted? No.
 - Jesus was tempted – **Matthew 4:1-11**
- Remember!
 - **James 1:14-15**

"But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death."

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- Christ was tempted, **but did not sin!**

"For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps, who committed no sin, nor was any deceit found in His mouth; and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously ..." (1 Peter 2:21-23)

"For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin." (Hebrews 4:15)

"He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him." (2 Corinthians 5:21)

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- Christ was tempted, **but did not sin!**

"For since He Himself was tempted in that which He has suffered, He is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted." (Hebrews 2:18)

"For it was fitting for us to have such a high priest, holy, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners and exalted above the heavens..." (Hebrews 7:26)

"Everyone who practices sin also practices lawlessness; and sin is lawlessness. You know that He appeared in order to take away sins; and in Him there is no sin." (1 John 3:4-5)

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Here's Why!

- The Devil used the **three points of temptation** **Matthew 4:1-11**
 - verses 1-4 **"lust of the flesh"** ... **Hunger**
 - verses 5-7 **"pride of life"** ... **Angels will catch you**
 - verses 8-10 **"lust of the eyes"** ... **All the kingdoms of the world and their glory**
- But each time, Jesus answered the Devil with Scripture!
 - **"it is written"** – **Matthew 4:4, 7, 10**
 - verse 4 – Quoting **Deuteronomy 8:3**
 - verse 7 – Quoting **Deuteronomy 6:16**
 - verse 10 – Quoting **Deuteronomy 6:1**

Christ used the way of escape!

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We Must Resist the Devil

"Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. But resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world." **(1 Peter 5:8-9)**

"Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you." **(James 4:7)**

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The Way Of Escape

- Many will not escape.

- People of Noah's time.

"Thus He blotted out every living thing that was upon the face of the land, from man to animals to creeping things and to birds of the sky, and they were blotted out from the earth; and only Noah was left, together with those that were with him in the ark." **(Genesis 7:23)**

- Lot's sons-in-law.

"Lot went out and spoke to his sons-in-law, who were to marry his daughters, and said, 'Up, get out of this place, for the Lord will destroy the city.' But he appeared to his sons-in-law to be jesting." **(Genesis 19:14)**

The Way Of Escape

- Many will not escape.

- Israelites.

"And with whom was He angry for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who were disobedient? So we see that they were not able to enter because of unbelief." **(Hebrews 3:17-19)**

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The Way Of Escape

- Many will not escape.

- People professing to be Christians.

"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.'" **(Matthew 7:21-23)**

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Many Will Not Escape

- They refuse Christ. **John 14:6**
- They change God's plan ... Nadab and Abihu. **Leviticus 10:1-2**
- They are deceived. **Galatians 6:7-8**
- They substitute tradition for truth. **Matthew 15:8-9**
- They procrastinate ... Felix. **Acts 24:24-25**
- They neglect their salvation. **Hebrews 2:1-3**

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Question

- Will we use the "**way of escape**" provided to bear up against the temptations of this life?

- **We Must!**

Caution!

**Beware of
The Devil's
Bait!**

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God's Plan of Salvation

HEAR THE WORD

James 1:21-22; Romans 10:17

BELIEVE IN JESUS

Romans 1:16; Hebrews 11:6

REPENT OF SINS

Acts 17:30-31; Luke 13:3

CONFESS HIS NAME

Matthew 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10

BE BAPTIZED FOR FORGIVENESS

Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16

REMAIN OBEDIENT

Hebrews 5:9; 1 Corinthians 15:58