

## THINGS WE CANNOT ESCAPE

1. In the San Francisco Bay, a twelve acre island of solid rock is found. From 1933 to 1963, site of Alcatraz prison. Hardened criminals confined. Thought to be escape proof. Yet, attempts were made; some thought to escape to safety. ("Bird Man of Alcatraz).

1. Houdini, thrilled audiences with escapes from situations thought impossible. Died in an attempt to escape from shackles while submerged under water.

2. Some things which it is impossible to escape. We might be ignorant of these, disbelieve and reject them, but cannot do away with them. Might ignore, neglect, or even despise, but this does not free us from the inevitable.

### DISCUSS: THINGS WE CANNOT ESCAPE

- I. PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY:
  - A. To God. He has always held men responsible for obeying His will, receiving His grace, salvation.
    1. Today, man must come to God through Jesus. "What will you do with Jesus?" He has given his law in order for one to become a Christian: Faith (Jn. 8:24); Repentance (A. 17:30); Confession (Rom. 10:9); Baptism (Mk. 16:16).
    2. Each responsible for decision to obey. No one can do this for us. (Acts 2:40) May decide to ignore or reject; but does not free from responsibility. (Acts 13:46)
  - B. Each Christian has personal responsibility in remaining faithful. "Working out own salvation with fear, trembling." (Phil. 2:12).
    1. Those who endure to end will be saved (Mt. 24:2-13; ;Rev. 2:10).
    2. We must not be just hearers, but doers. (Jas. 1:25)
    3. Those who are not faithful, will be lost. Can't make excuse that temptation too great, or others did not do enough to help...Inevitable fact we must face.
  - C. Every Christian is personally responsible in helping to save souls: both aliens and fellow Christians (2 Tim. 2:2; Jas. 5:19,10).
    1. Should realize personal responsibility as did Paul. (Rom. 1:14)
  - D. Parents have responsibility in training children.
    1. Owe them spiritual training. (Eph. 6:4) Many give children everything but that which is the most important....Concerned with food, clothing, home, money, good education.
    2. Never concerned with proper example, Bible study, worship, proper conduct, speech. (see Deut. 6:4-7).
  - E. Reason we cannot escape:
    1. The all seeing eye of God: Omnipresent—"Eyes of Lord in every place beholding the evil and the good." (Prov. 15:3).
      - a. All things are naked and open to God's eyes. (Heb. 4:13).
      - b. Truth should keep us from sinning; cause us to always watch words, deeds. "Be

careful little eyes, etc.”

2. May wish to flee from all-seeing eye of God, but impossible. (Illus., Jonah; Psa. 139:7-12)-- Darkness, light are both alike to Him.
3. God sees the wicked and lazy.

II. WE CAN'T ESCAPE HAVING INFLUENCE ON THOSE AROUND US: (OTHERS ARE WATCHING)

A. *Influence may be good or bad, but some kind is inevitable.*

1. Disciple to have positive influence. (Mt. 5:13-16)
2. Influence may be that which corrupts others, or may be for preserving.

III. CANNOT ESCAPE CONSEQUENCE OF SIN;

A. Gal. 6:7,8- Cannot sow one thing and reap another—In every area of life. True with

actions...Wages of sin is death. (Rom. 6:23)

1. One may choose to drink, cannot escape consequence on body, mind, influence.
2. Live for this life only..”god is belly....End is destruction.” (Phil. 3:19)

IV. DEATH; IS A REALITY THAT WE CANNOT ESCAPE;

- A. All have an appointment. (Heb. 9:27) Unless Lord returns first.
- B. Good to consider this fact. (Ecc. 7:2-4) Help to prepare for it. Those who grow older, poor health give thought to such...However, life uncertain for any.
- C. Death will end all opportunities for the unfaithful and disobedient to repent—close of day of God’s mercy and grace. (Rom. 2:4) If failed to take advantage, then one has treasured up wrath against the day of wrath. (Rom. 2:5).
- D. In contrast, death will end the saint’s conflict with flesh and end afflictions and trials. “Better to depart, be with Christ.” (Phil. 1:23)

V. NO ESCAPING JUDGMENT:

- A. If such a thing as justice, where all things made right, then judgment.
- B. All to appear (2 Cor. 5:10); Every knee will bow. (Rom. 14:10)
- C. Personal—One cannot answer for another.
- D. Judged according to what is written, the gospel. (Rom. 2:16).

VI. CANNOT ESCAPE THE ETERNAL VERDICT OF GOD:

- A. At times, criminals escape. Lack of evidence, error in prosecution, judgment overruled by higher court because of “technicalities.” (Illus., Confessed rapist, murderer freed.”
- B. Course of life determines final verdict of God.
- C. God’s justice will be manifested in his verdict to exclude from heaven those who are unprepared...Wrath on ungodly. (Rom. 1:18)
  1. Power to enforce verdict. No change of verdict. (Mt. 25:46).  
Conc. 1. Knowledge that we cannot escape responsibilities, death, judgment should cause us to want to be prepared.
  2. Consequence too great: Eternity too long, blessings of heaven too wonderful for any soul to miss.

3. Can escape the sentence due sin. (Rom. 6:23) Obedience to gospel, by God's grace, will hear, "come ye blessed."  
Do you not want to hear those words?