

## Things We Cannot Escape

No. 127

### Introduction.

- I. It has often been stated that there are two things we cannot escape in life - death and taxes. This statement is partially true, but it is not completely accurate. There are actually many things we cannot escape.
- II. For our lesson let us discuss some “Things We Cannot Escape.”
  - I. **Personal Responsibility** - We cannot escape personal responsibility.
    - A. Christianity is a **universal religion**. It is for the whole world. It is for every race and every nationality.
    - B. Christian is also an **individual religion**. It is for the masses of the world. It is for every man, woman, and child. Every person is personally responsible to God. (Acts 2:40; Phil. 2:12; Gal. 6:5).
      1. Every person has the responsibility to make his **own decision to serve Christ**. This is a decision that our mother or father, husband or wife or anyone else can not make for us. Obedience is a personal matter! Each one must obey the Lord from the heart.
      2. Every person has the responsibility to **do his own work**.
        - a. There is a tendency among many to speak of the works others are doing in terms of “we.” The work others are doing is good, but it will not substitute for our work. We must do our own work for the Lord. The Bible teaches that faith without works is dead. (Jas. 2:14). It teaches we have been created in Christ Jesus for good works. (Eph. 2:10).
        - b. Each and every person must be a **soul-winner for Christ**. This is not just the work of the elders, the preachers, and a few others. (Matt. 28:19-20; Acts 5:42).
        - c. Early Christians realized they had a personal **responsibility to win souls**.
          - 1) We too have a personal responsibility to win souls. Until we come to realize that we have a personal responsibility to win souls, we will not evangelize the world.
          - 2) It is estimated that at least **150 million babies** are born every year. This means that more than 400,000 babies are born every day of the year. At the present rate we are winning souls to Christ it would take a 1000 years just to convert the babies that are born this year and more than 40000 years to convert the present world population.
          - 3) After hearing these statistics many will say, “**It is impossible to convert the world so why even try.**” This is not so! It is in our power! If every Christian would convert just one soul a year to Christ, we could convert the entire world in a short period of time. Start with 3,000,000 and show how much the church would grow in 5 years. We could reach the whole world in about 12 years. Let’s each get busy winning souls to Christ. Let’s each lead a precious soul to Christ this year. **Make a list of people we know and begin to pray for them.**

3. Every person has the responsibility to **help the needy**. (Jas. 1:27; 1 Jn. 3:17, 18).
  - a. If we do not help the needy we show that are not practicing pure and undefiled religion. We show that the love of God does not abide in us and we will be condemned for our lack of mercy.
  - b. In the judgment Jesus will say to those who have neglected the poor. (Matt. 25:41).

4. Every person has the responsibility to **worship God**.

- a. We must personally attend the services of the church. Someone else cannot do this for us. We must also do our own listening, singing and praying.
- b. Brother **Frank Pack** was right when he said many come to the services of the church to be entertained. They fail to realize they are the actors and God is the audience. We come to please God, not ourselves.

5. Every person has a **financial obligation to God**. (1 Cor. 16:2).

- a. It is said that about 20% of the members of the church give 80% of the money.
- b. Since 20% of the members do not have 80% of the income, this means a lot of people are giving as they have been prospered. This means a lot of people are robbing God of what rightfully belongs to Him. It is a very serious thing to rob God. It means a lot of people will never hear the gospel. It means that many hungry people will not be fed. It means that God is dishonored. It means we will lose our souls.

II. **All-Seeing Eye Of God** - We cannot escape the all-seeing eye of God. (Psa. 139:1-4, 11-12).

**PSA 139:1 O Lord, Thou hast searched me and known me. 2 Thou dost know when I sit down and when I rise up; Thou dost understand my thought from afar. 3 Thou dost scrutinize my path and my lying down, And art intimately acquainted with all my ways. 4 Even before there is a word on my tongue, Behold, O Lord, Thou dost know it all. 11 If I say, "Surely the darkness will overwhelm me, And the light around me will be night," 12 Even the darkness is not dark to Thee, And the night is as bright as the day. Darkness and light are alike to Thee.**

A. Prov. 15:3; Heb. 4:13a.

1. These scriptures teach us that God sees everything we do - even the things done in darkness.
2. Nothing escapes the all-seeing eye of God. The realization of this fact should motivate us to guard the things we do and say.

B. Let us keep in mind this old hymn by **R.E. Winsett**.

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,  
Everyday mind the course you pursue;  
Watching you, watching you,  
There's an all-seeing Eye watching you.

### III. **Influence On Those Around Us** - We cannot escape the **influence on those around us**.

- A. Everyone of us, whether we like it or not, has an influence for good or bad on others. We are drawing men closer to God by our example or we are causing them to be indifferent or driving them away by our example.
- B. What kind of influence are we having on others? Are we influencing others for good or evil? Are we leading them to heaven or hell?
- C. Jesus taught we are to set a good example.
  - 1. We are to be the lights shining in the world. (Matt. 5:14-16; Phil. 2:15).
  - 2. **Once there was a blind man who walked about with a lantern on his arm.** Someone asked him why he carried the lantern inasmuch as he was blind. He replied, "To keep other people from stumbling over me."
  - 3. This is something to think about. We should let our lights shine that others will not stumble over us. (Lk. 17:1; 1 Cor. 10:32).

### IV. **Consequences Of Sin** - We cannot escape the consequences of sin.

- A. We cannot sow one thing and reap another. (Hos. 8:7; Gal. 6:7,8).
- B. Paul emphatically states a person will reap what he has sown!
  - 1. The **girl** who is known as the easy catch or who will go too far with the boys will suffer the consequences of sin. She will lose her soul unless she repents. She will also destroy her reputation so that no one will want to marry her.
    - a. **A professor once illustrated** this by passing a rose around the class. When the rose had been passed around the class it was wilted. He took the wilted rose and put it in a container full of fresh roses and told everyone to take one. The same warning should be given to our young men.
    - b. I do not have to tell you which one was left. No one wants a wilted rose. Likewise, no man wants to marry a girl who has been passed around.
  - 2. Those who **eat too much** and **smoke** will suffer the consequences of sin.
    - a. Some time back **there was a man, I knew, who ate too much and smoked too much.** The doctor told him if he did not slow down on his eating and stop smoking he would have a heart attack. The man just ignored the doctor and kept on over eating and smoking. After a time he had a serious heart attack and nearly died. The doctor said, "Now you know what I have been telling you. Unless you throw the

cigarettes away and stop eating so much, you are going to die.”

- b. To my knowledge this man has not smoked a cigarette since that day. He has slowed down on his eating and lost weight. The sad thing about this story is the man still has a diseased heart. He will never be the man he once was. He did not escape the consequences of sin!

3. Those **who drink** cannot escape the consequences of this sin.

- a. Alcohol will harm their bodies, weaken their wills, destroy their influence for good, and damn their souls in hell.
- b. The late brother **B.C. Goodpasture**, the former editor of the Gospel Advocate, told of holding a meeting in New York some years ago. After church one night, he and the local preacher went down on the Bowery and saw men in every state of intoxication. Some were lying sprawled out in the gutter. Some were lying on the sidewalks and others were lying up against buildings. They went out to visit a little “mission” and on the benches in that building they found over a hundred men trying to sleep. They learned that some of those men had been successful lawyers, physicians and businessmen.
- c. These men all had one thing in common. They were all slaves of strong drink. They had lost their jobs, lost their homes, their families and their souls because of the drink. They are living testimonies that you cannot turn your nose up at God and mock His teachings. “Whatsoever a man sows that shall he also reap.”

V. **Death** - We cannot escape death. (Job. 14:1, 2; 1 Cor. 15:22; Heb. 9:27).

- A. These scriptures emphasize that life is short and that everyone of us has an appointment with death. We will die unless the very coming of Christ prevents it.
- B. Even though death must come to all, many are not ready for it.
  - 1. They seem to think they have plenty of time. They fail to realize that life can be taken away at any moment regardless of one’s age.
  - 2. Death is not a respecter of persons. Every day people of all ages die.

VI. **The Judgment** - We cannot escape judgment. (Jn. 5:28, 29; Acts 17:30, 31; 2 Cor. 5:10).

- A. Each and every one us here will some day stand before the judgment seat of Christ.
- B. At that time we will be judged according to the way we have lived up to God’s word. We will receive a verdict from Christ. Some will be blessed with eternal life with God. Others will be condemned to eternal torment where there shall be the weeping and gnashing of teeth.

**Conclusion.**

I. **Are you ready for this great day?**

- A. Are you ready for Christ to judge your life and pronounce judgment? If not, you need to make this preparation.
- B. You can make this preparation by confessing your faith in Christ and by being baptized and coming forth out

of the water to walk in the newness of life. If you are an unfaithful child of God, you can make this preparation by confessing yours sins and rededicating your life to God.

II. Those subject to the invitation are urged to come as we stand and sing!

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