

SLIDING INTO HELL

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"Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip. For if the word spoken by angels was steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward; 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." Heb. 2:1-3.

A recent poll shows 88% of Americans still believe there is a God, and accept many truths of the Bible. America was founded on the great freedoms and principles of the Word of God. We are who we are in the eyes of the world because our founding fathers had a believing faith in the Creator. Today, however, our government and courts are sliding away from those same good truths. It has become fashionable to ignore much of the Bible, minimize God's standards, and care very little for His will and wishes. Most tragic is our inattention to what we have heard when it comes to personal relationship to God. One can say they believe the Bible and follow some form of religion and yet miss God's warning concerning hell. Many have heard about it, but done little to avoid it. In fact they use it cursing constantly. Our verses today warn us to pay attention to what we have heard, and stop putting off the decision that can keep us out of hell. **(1) The Warning Is Clear:** *"The wicked shall be turned into Hell and all the nations that forget God."* Psm. 9:17. The warning is clear, from our text, *"How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation."* Further warning comes from Prov. 29:1 *" He, that being often reprov'd hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy."* When you hear the gospel you must

act upon it. Nothing is more important for *"What shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?"* Mark 8³⁶⁻³⁷. Never forget your soul is worth more than all the riches in the world. Knowing that you are on your way to Heaven is the most important thing you could ever settle in time and eternity. The 88% I mentioned may say they believe there is a God but slide away from their opportunity to be right with Him. You would not say you want to go to Hell, but if you put your salvation off until it is too late, you will be confined there forever. Perhaps you wonder why this is true? Many verses say we were all born in sin. *"For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God."* Rom. 3:23 Since the days of Adam and Eve this has been true, and *"The wages of sin is death."* Rom 6:23a. The Bible testifies *"For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good or whether it be evil."* Ecc. 12:14. Further, *"But I say unto you, that every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give, account thereof in the day of judgment."* Matt. 12:36. Every unconfessed sin will be judged in the great day of judgment. You better not put off getting ready, for Hell is one place you do not want to go. God says all men will be judged according to their works and the greatest sin will demand the greatest punishment. (2). **What Is The Greatest Sin?** Some of you might think of murder. It is indeed a dreadful sin, breaking one of the ten commandments; *"Thou shalt not kill."* Ex. 20:13. God warns *"Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man."* Gen. 9:6 The Bible still urges capital punishment, so killers should not be excused. The murder of little babies in their mother's womb is a hideous sin, for which America will face awful judgment. This is not the greatest sin. Perhaps you might say the greatest is adultery. It also breaks one of the Ten Commandment and unfaithfulness

in marriage is an evil sin indeed. *"But whoso committeth adultery with a woman lacketh understanding: he that doeth it destroyeth his own soul. A wound and dishonor shall he get; and his reproach shall not be wiped away."* Prov. 6:32. This sin is again spreading with all sorts of unGodly marriage arrangements. You might say that cursing is the greatest sin. All forms of using the Lord's name in vain are cursing. Again it breaks one of the Ten Commandments. *"Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain"* Ex. 20:7. The list of sins you might think of is long. Is it sodomy, child abuse, perverted sex, same sex marriage and all the other God hating actions of lustful mankind? **The (3) The Greatest Sin: Is The Sin Of Unbelief:** *"And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment,"* Mark 12:30. Man is told to love Him and to obey Him. Failure to do so will cause God to pour His wrath upon all unrepentant sinners. Add the rejection of His son from your life, and you are headed for Hell. It would be extremely foolish for you to die in your sins, pay for your own transgressions when God offers all full salvation through Christ. He leaves no one hopeless, but offers **(4) The Greatest Gift Ever:** *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."* John 3:16. The greatest gift ever is the eternal life which God offers to all who accept His Son as their Saviour. I am left speechless to describe how great this salvation is. **Great Because Of It's Creator.** God's loving and forgiving plan for mans' salvation was made in heaven, that you could be saved. It is **Great Because Of It's Cost:** *"Forasmuch as ye know that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition*

from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as a lamb without blemish and without spot." I Peter 1:18 &19. God has shown His love for us by giving His precious Son to die in our place for our sin. To miss out on such provision and forgiveness is a blunder beyond words. Further it is **A Great Complete Salvation:** When you personally accept Christ you will miss Hell and be guaranteed a home in Heaven. This will give you all you need and more. Rom. 8:32 states *"He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?"* If you receive Christ your salvation is complete because it is finished. Jesus paid it all. It is time for you who have not yet believed to answer this question. *"How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation."* In our text this question is asked. **How Shall You Escape If You Neglect So Great Salvation:** Ask anyone you like if there is any other way of escape. Ask the wisest of men on earth, and they cannot give you an honest answer. Ask all the man made religions of the world, and they have no true solution to your need. If you could somehow ask those in Hell, they would blankly stare with no answer. They would certainly urge you not to come there. Remember it is not substitute religious answers that will save you from the flames of Hell. There is absolutely no way to escape if you refuse God's way of salvation. *"Behold now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation."* II Cor. 6:2b. Let me tuck one more verse your way *"How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation."* Heb. 2:3a. You can escape from a ruined wasteful life. You can escape from your hardened Heart. You can escape from your list of hopeless excuses. You can escape from your disease of sin. You can escape the flames of Hell and rejoice in the glories of Heaven. Remember the choice is yours. God is *"not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."* II Pet. 3:9b.

Do It Now!