

## SOME THINGS WE CANNOT ESCAPE

### INTRODUCTION

- I. Man and animals are very much alike—yet very different.
  - A. Their bodies are alike in that they are both from the ground, and will return to the ground. Gen.2:19,7
    1. God Himself is the creator of both.
    2. Neither descended from the other, but have the same Creator.
  - B. Yet, man is superior to animals because he was given an eternal spirit that will survive death, while animals cease to exist completely at death.
    1. Man is made in the image of the Spirit God. Jn.4:24; Gen.1:26f
    2. Man is also given the powers of reasoning and choice, while animals are largely directed by fear and instinct.
    3. Animals are made to serve man, and man is to serve God by choice. Josh.24:15; cf Gen.1:27f
- II. As we make our choices in life, we are ultimately brought face to face with some facts that we cannot escape.

### DISCUSSION

- I. **1<sup>st</sup>, we cannot escape PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY.**
  - A. Responsibility is the result of accountability—meaning that each one is responsible and accountable to GOD.
    1. When one gets old enough to be aware of right and wrong and their consequences, he is responsible for obeying the gospel which is completed in baptism. Ro.7:9-11; 6:3,17f
    2. To be accountable is to give account to God for our actions. Ro.14:12
  - B. Look at some examples of accountability. Gen.3:1-13; 1Sa.15:1-21,24; cf Mt.7:13f
    1. Husbands and wives are accountable for their faithfulness to each other.
    2. Parents are responsible for the welfare of their children. Ep.6:4
- II. **2<sup>nd</sup>, we cannot escape the CONSEQUENCES OF SIN.**
  - A. What we sow, we shall reap. Ga.6:7f; Ro.6:23; Mt.23:33...
  - B. God holds us accountable to His commands, as based on OT history. 1Co.10:(1-9),10; He.2:2f
- III. **3<sup>rd</sup>, we cannot escape the REALITY OF DEATH.**
  - A. This was obvious in OT days.
    1. Only 2 people were taken to heaven without dying—thereby avoiding death. Gen.5:23f; He.11:5; 2Ki.2:8-12
    2. Death reigned generally from the sin of Adam and Eve. Gen.2:16f; 3:4,24; Ro.5:11-14; Job 14:1f
  - B. All of have an appointment with death. He.9:27; Js.4:14
    1. Illus. APPOINTMENT IN TEL AVIV. I once heard the story about a man we shall call “Manual” who was walking the streets of Jerusalem, and saw the “death angel.” He was SCARED, and went to his employer and asked to borrow a vehicle so he could flee to Tel Aviv immediately, for fear the death angel was after him. Later his employer came across the death angel, and he asked the death angel what he DID to scare Manual as to make him want to run away so quickly. The death angel replied, “Well, that is strange. I have an appointment with him in Tel Aviv at midnight.” Manual thought he could escape death by running, but he could not.
    2. Only those who will still be alive at the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming of Jesus will escape death. 1Co.15:50-53; 1Th.4:16f

CONCLUSION

- I. Finally, **we cannot escape the judgment day.** Ro.2:3; He.9:27; 2Co.5:10; Jn.5:28f
  - A. In that day, we shall face the TRUTH of God's word. Jn.12:48
    - 1. If we have twisted the scripture to justify denominational belief, we will certainly be embarrassed to be exposed in that day.
      - a. There, it will be manifested that baptism WAS essential to salvation.
      - b. There, it will be manifested that Jesus DID build only one church.
    - 2. There, all secret sins and evil deeds shall be made known. Mt.7:21-23
  - B. In that day, we shall face the consequences of our actions on earth, whether it be our unbelief or our disobedience.
- II. Illus. HE WASN'T READY. I had the responsibility one to accompany one of the elders in a certain congregation, to inform one of the ladies in that congregation that her wayward son had been killed in a tragic car accident. Before she passed out, she said, "He wasn't ready to go." ARE YOU?