

## UNAVOIDABLE REALITIES WE ALL MUST FACE

“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; God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to His own will?” (**Hebrews 2:1-4**).

### Introduction:

1. The Unavoidable Realities Of Life: Life is filled with truths that no one can escape or ignore. These realities are not simply outcomes but divine appointments and principles that God has set in place (**Hebrews 2:1-4**).

Consider the law of gravity. No matter how much we might wish it away, every person is subject to it. Likewise, God's principles are universal - set in place as enduring truths that no one can escape, whether we choose to recognize them or not.

2. Ignorance Is Not An Excuse: Regardless of whether one knows or acknowledges these realities, each person will encounter them. Scripture teaches us to pay close attention, so we do not drift away from what we have heard and ignore God's warnings (**Acts 17:30; Hebrews 2:1**).

Imagine a traveller who ignores warning signs about dangerous cliffs ahead. Just because they did not heed the warnings does not make the cliffs any less real. Similarly, ignoring God's principles does not eliminate the consequences - they remain, like markers on the path, to either guide us or warn us.

3. Preparing Our Hearts And Minds: Recognizing these truths can prepare us for life's challenges and help us live in alignment with God's will. By exploring these inevitable things, we can face them with faith and confidence, rooted in God's promises (**2 Peter 1:10-11**).

Much like a gardener prepares the soil for planting, knowing what lies ahead allows us to cultivate our lives accordingly. A farmer does not wait for the storm to decide if he will protect his crops; he prepares in advance. In the same way, preparing our hearts and minds today enables us to stand firm when these inevitable truths impact our lives.

### 1. God's Omnipresence (**Proverbs 15:3; Hebrews 4:13**):

God's omnipresence is a profound reality that shapes how we live and think. His presence is not limited by time or space; He sees everything we do, knows every thought, and observes both the good and the evil in our lives (**Proverbs 15:3; Hebrews 4:13**). This knowledge should inspire us to avoid sin and live in alignment with His will, recognizing that nothing is hidden from Him (**Proverbs 5:21; Job 34:21-22**). Like Jonah, who tried and failed to escape God's presence, we, too, must realize that God is inescapable - He is everywhere, fully aware and understanding of our innermost thoughts (**Jonah 1:3; Psalms 139:7-10**). Knowing this, we are encouraged to live responsibly, honoring the One who sees us completely.

- a. God's Presence Should Deter Us From Sin: Recognizing that God sees everything we do and think should encourage us to avoid sinful actions. His watchfulness is constant, and His eyes observe both good and evil (**Proverbs 5:21; Job 34:21-22; Jeremiah 16:17**).

- b. Attempts To Escape Are Futile: Many, like Jonah, have tried to flee from God, but there is no place in heaven, earth, or even in the depths of the sea where His presence cannot reach. This reminder of His inescapable presence should inspire obedience rather than resistance (**Jonah 1:3; Psalms 139:7-10; Amos 9:2-4**).



- c. God Knows Our Innermost Thoughts: Even the deepest, unspoken thoughts of our hearts are known to God. This awareness can prompt us to purify our intentions and seek His guidance continually, knowing that He understands us entirely (**1 Chronicles 28:9; Psalms 44:21; Revelation 2:23; Jeremiah 17:10**).

Knowing that God is always present and aware of our actions leads us to consider our responsibility before Him. If we cannot escape His presence, then it follows that we must live in a way that honors Him, recognizing our accountability to His standards.

## 2. Responsibility For Our Actions (Matthew 7:21-23):

God holds us accountable for how we live, calling us to follow His standards of love, integrity, justice, and mercy. Our responsibility goes beyond words or rituals; we are to live a life that reflects His commands through our actions (**Matthew 7:21-23; Deuteronomy 10:12-13**). True religion, as God desires, involves caring for others, maintaining purity, and remaining untainted by worldly influences (**James 1:27**). Faithfulness is a continual commitment that often requires us to choose integrity and compassion, even in difficult situations (**Matthew 10:22; Revelation 2:10**). We are also entrusted with sharing God's word and setting a godly example, beginning within our families and extending to others, helping them to know His truth and love (**2 Timothy 2:2; 1 Peter 3:15**). Each act of obedience not only honors God but strengthens our relationship with Him, while also impacting the lives of those around us.

- a. God Has Established Standards For Righteous Living: God has provided clear instructions on how we should live, including principles for love, integrity, justice, and mercy. Our actions will be measured by how well we align with His prescribed way of life, and merely calling upon the Lord's name is not enough; obedience is required (**Deuteronomy 10:12-13; Micah 6:8; John 14:15**).
  - b. Pursuit Of Pure And undefiled Religion: True religion goes beyond ritual; it involves caring for those in need, maintaining personal integrity, and remaining untainted by the world's corruption. This responsibility reflects the compassion and holiness that God desires from His people (**James 1:27; Isaiah 1:17; 1 John 3:17-18**).
  - c. Faithfulness To God Must Be Maintained:
    - 1) Faithfulness Requires Continuous Commitment: Faithfulness involves a continuous commitment to God, even in trials. Just as an athlete trains regularly, we must cultivate spiritual practices like prayer, Bible study, and fellowship to strengthen our faith.
    - 2) Faithfulness In Daily Choices: In daily life, faithfulness might mean choosing integrity over convenience, or compassion over self-interest, reflecting our loyalty to God's values (**Matthew 10:22; Matthew 24:12-13; Revelation 2:10; 2 Timothy 4:7-8; Hebrews 10:23**).

Illustrative Example: Faithfulness might mean speaking the truth even when it is easier to lie or helping others in need even at personal cost. Much like the faithful servants in Matthew 25:21 who are told, "Well done, good and faithful servant," we are called to daily, consistent acts of faithfulness that honor God.
  - d. Responsibility To Share The Gospel: We are entrusted with the task of spreading God's word and being ready to explain our faith to others. Fishing for souls involves both living as an example and actively sharing the hope we have in Christ (**2 Timothy 2:2; 1 Peter 3:15; James 5:20; Matthew 28:19-20**).
  - e. Guiding Family Members In The Lord: Parents are charged with the duty to bring up their children in the nurture and instruction of the Lord. This responsibility extends to all believers, as we support one another in living righteously (**Ephesians 6:1-4; Deuteronomy 6:6-7; Proverbs 22:6**).
- Illustrative Example: Guiding family members could mean setting aside time each week for family devotionals or encouraging open discussions about faith. Like Lois and Eunice, who shared their faith with Timothy, we are called to create an environment of support and encouragement that reflects Christ's teachings (**2 Timothy 1:5**).

While we have the responsibility to live righteously, there are also consequences for when we fall short. Just as a loving parent disciplines to teach, God's laws remind us that choices contrary to His ways lead to real consequences - both now and in eternity.

## 3. Consequences Of Sin (Romans 6:23; Galatians 6:7-8):

Sin carries both immediate and eternal consequences, reminding us of the serious nature of disobeying God's commands (**Romans 6:23; Galatians 6:7-8**). Persistent rebellion can provoke God's wrath, as it did for Israel, showing that His patience is not infinite and His grace should not be taken lightly (**Hosea 8:7; Ezekiel 8:18**). Sin's immediate effects often impact our physical and emotional lives, causing suffering, broken relationships, and regret (**Proverbs 13:15; Psalms 32:3-4**). David's experience with Bathsheba illustrates this truth, as his actions led to personal and far-reaching turmoil (**2 Samuel 12:10-14**). Ultimately, unrepentant sin leads to eternal separation from God, emphasizing the seriousness of aligning our lives with His standards while we have the opportunity (**Matthew 25:46; Revelation 21:8**). The consequences of sin underscore the importance of seeking God's forgiveness and living in harmony with His will.

- a. Provoking God's Wrath: God's patience is not infinite when it comes to sin, and persistent rebellion can lead to divine judgment. Just as Israel faced punishment for repeatedly disobeying, we are warned against testing the boundaries of His grace (**Hosea 8:7; Ezekiel 8:18; Romans 1:18**).

- b. Immediate Consequences In Our Physical Lives: Sin often brings about immediate negative effects in our lives, affecting our physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being. Choices that go against God's commandments can lead to suffering, regret, and broken relationships (**Proverbs 13:15; Psalms 32:3-4; James 1:14-15**).

Illustrative Example: For instance, lying may seem convenient in the moment but often leads to fractured relationships and a loss of trust. David's sin with Bathsheba led to immediate pain and turmoil in his life, a reminder that sin's impact is often both personal and far-reaching (**2 Samuel 12:10-14**).

- c. Eternal Consequences Of Sin: Beyond earthly consequences, unrepentant sin leads to eternal separation from God. The Bible emphasizes the seriousness of sin's wages - spiritual death and the loss of eternal life with God unless we seek His forgiveness (**Matthew 25:46; 2 Thessalonians 1:9; Revelation 21:8**).

Consequences of sin are a reminder of the impermanence of this life. Regardless of our actions, death is an inevitable reality for every person, and how we live today shapes the way we approach that final day.

#### **4. Death (Hebrews 9:27; Ecclesiastes 9:5):**

Death is an inescapable reality for every person, reminding us of our mortality and the brevity of earthly life (**Hebrews 9:27; Ecclesiastes 9:5**). No matter how long a person lives, even Methuselah's 969 years, death eventually comes to all, underscoring the transient nature of this life (**Genesis 5:27; Psalms 90:10**). Even Christ, the Lord of life, experienced death on the cross, demonstrating that no one, not even the Son of God, is exempt from this reality; His death, however, offers us the hope of eternal life (**Matthew 27:50; Philippians 2:8**). Knowing this, we are encouraged to prepare spiritually, living wisely and aligning our lives with God's purpose, as death marks the end of one journey and the beginning of eternity (**Ecclesiastes 7:2; 2 Timothy 4:6-8**). Reflecting on Paul's words, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race," we are reminded to live each day prepared, so we may face death with peace and confidence (**2 Timothy 4:7-8**).

- a. All Must Face Death, No Matter Their Longevity: Even Methuselah, the longest-lived person recorded in Scripture, faced the inevitability of death. No one is immune to this final chapter, which reminds us of our mortality and the fleeting nature of earthly life (**Genesis 5:27; Psalms 90:10; James 4:14**).
- b. Even Christ, The Lord Of Life, Experienced Death: Jesus' death on the cross demonstrates that even the Son of God was not exempt from this earthly reality. His death, however, served a greater purpose, offering us the hope of eternal life beyond death's grip (**Matthew 27:50; John 19:30; Philippians 2:8**).
- c. Preparation For Death Is A Spiritual Priority: Since death is unavoidable, we are called to live in such a way that we are spiritually prepared. Reflecting on our mortality encourages us to seek wisdom, deepen our relationship with God, and align our lives with His purpose (**Ecclesiastes 7:2; 1 Kings 2:2; Revelation 14:13; 2 Timothy 4:6-8**).

Illustrative Example: Just as a wise builder prepares before storms, we should live each day with our spiritual lives in order. Paul's words, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race" (**2 Timothy 4:7-8**) reflect the importance of preparing for the end, so we may face death with assurance and peace.

As death brings an end to earthly life, judgment awaits on the other side. Death may be the end of one journey, but it is the beginning of eternity, where every action and choice will come under divine scrutiny.

#### **5. Judgment (2 Corinthians 5:10; Acts 17:30-31):**

Judgment is the final moment when each person stands before God, held accountable for their life, with His Word as the ultimate standard (**2 Corinthians 5:10; Acts 17:30-31**). Jesus made it clear that His words will judge us, underscoring the importance of aligning our lives with His teachings (**John 12:48; Romans 2:16**). On that day, every person will bow in submission, acknowledging God's sovereignty, regardless of belief or status, as all recognize His authority (**Romans 14:10-12; Philippians 2:10-11**). The outcome will be a final pronouncement: eternal life for those who embraced God's grace or eternal separation for those who rejected it, highlighting the significance of our choices in this life (**Matthew 25:34, 41; Revelation 22:14-15**). This certainty calls us to live now with the awareness that our actions today echo into eternity.

- a. All Will Be Judged By The Word Of God: God's Word is the standard by which each person will be judged. Jesus declared that His words will serve as the measure, calling us to follow His teachings and live according to truth (**John 12:48; Romans 2:16; Revelation 20:11-12; Hebrews 4:12**).
- b. Every Person Will Bow In Submission: Regardless of status, belief, or background, every individual will ultimately acknowledge God's sovereignty. This moment will reveal the heart of every person as they recognize His authority (**Romans 14:10-12; Philippians 2:10-11; Isaiah 45:23**).

- c. The Final Pronouncement: Saved Or Lost: Judgment will conclude with a decisive declaration - either welcoming the faithful into eternal life or condemning those who rejected God's grace. This eternal separation underscores the weight of our choices in this life (**Matthew 25:34, 41; Revelation 22:14-15; 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9**).

## Conclusion

- 1. Inevitable Realities We All Must Face:** Each of us has unavoidable truths that we will encounter, from God's constant presence to our responsibility for our actions, the consequences of sin, the certainty of death, and the final judgment. These are not distant concepts but realities that shape our present and future (**Hebrews 4:13; Ecclesiastes 12:14; Romans 14:12; 2 Corinthians 5:10**).
- 2. Preparing Ourselves With Wisdom And Faith:** Recognizing and understanding these truths now allows us to live with purpose and clarity. By grounding ourselves in God's Word and responding to His call, we can face each of these inevitable truths without regret and with the hope of eternal life (**Proverbs 1:7; James 1:5**).
- 3. A Call To Act Today:** Today is the time to reflect, repent, and prepare. Let us strive to live in a way that honors God and secures our relationship with Him, so that when we stand before Him, we may hear, "Well done, good and faithful servant" (**2 Corinthians 6:2; Matthew 25:21**).

## Applications:

- 1. Embracing Personal Responsibility:** God calls us to live a life that reflects His standards of love, integrity, and compassion. Take ownership of your actions, knowing that genuine faith is demonstrated through obedience. At the end of each day, consider how well your actions aligned with God's commands, and commit to live in a way that consistently honors Him.
- 2. Reflecting On The Consequences Of Sin:** Be mindful of how sin impacts your life, relationships, and well-being. Recognize that choices contrary to God's will lead to regret and brokenness. Set aside time each week to reflect and confess areas where sin may have taken root, seeking God's forgiveness and making choices that draw you closer to Him.
- 3. Preparing For Life's End With Purpose:** Remember that life is brief, and each day should be lived with an eternal perspective. Set priorities that align with God's purpose and seek spiritual growth through prayer, repentance, and fellowship. Strive to live wisely and intentionally, preparing yourself for the time when you will stand before God.
- 4. Living In Light Of Judgment:** Judgment is a reality, and it calls us to examine our lives regularly. Live each day as though you will stand before God, letting His Word guide your choices. Aim for consistency in both your public and private life, and seek opportunities to share God's love with others, knowing that every action has eternal significance.

## Questions:

1. What should the awareness of God's presence encourage us to do?
2. Why are attempts to escape God's presence described as futile?
3. According to the lesson, what is required beyond merely calling upon the Lord's name?
4. What does "pure and undefiled religion" involve, according to the Bible?
5. How does reflecting on the consequences of sin help us in our walk with God?
6. What was one immediate consequence of David's sin with Bathsheba?
7. How does the reality of death encourage us to live purposefully?
8. What lesson can we learn from Christ's experience of death?
9. What is the standard by which we will be judged?
10. What will be the final pronouncement on judgment day, and what does it signify?

## Questions & Answers

1. What should the awareness of God's presence encourage us to do?

It should encourage us to turn away from sin and live with integrity, knowing that God sees everything we do (**Proverbs 15:3; Hebrews 4:13**).

2. Why are attempts to escape God's presence described as futile?

Because God is omnipresent, meaning He is everywhere, and there is no place where we can hide from Him (**Jonah 1:3; Psalms 139:7-10**).

3. According to the lesson, what is required beyond merely calling upon the Lord's name?

Obedience to God's commands is required, as true faith is demonstrated by actions that align with His will (**Matthew 7:21-23; John 14:15**).

4. What does "pure and undefiled religion" involve, according to the Bible?

Pure and undefiled religion involves caring for those in need, maintaining integrity, and remaining untainted by worldly corruption (**James 1:27; Isaiah 1:17**).

5. How does reflecting on the consequences of sin help us in our walk with God?

It reminds us of the impact of our choices, motivating us to avoid sin, seek forgiveness, and live in alignment with God's will (**Romans 6:23; Galatians 6:7-8**).

6. What was one immediate consequence of David's sin with Bathsheba?

David experienced immediate turmoil and pain in his life, as his sin led to far-reaching personal and relational consequences (**2 Samuel 12:10-14**).

7. How does the reality of death encourage us to live purposefully?

Knowing that life is brief and death is certain, we are encouraged to align our lives with God's purpose and prepare spiritually for eternity (**Hebrews 9:27; Ecclesiastes 7:2**).

8. What lesson can we learn from Christ's experience of death?

Christ's death shows that even the Son of God was not exempt from this earthly reality, yet His death provided hope for eternal life for us (**Matthew 27:50; Philippians 2:8**).

9. What is the standard by which we will be judged?

We will be judged by the Word of God, with Jesus' teachings serving as the measure of how we lived according to truth (**John 12:48; Romans 2:16**).

10. What will be the final pronouncement on judgment day, and what does it signify?

The final pronouncement will be either eternal life for the faithful or eternal separation for those who rejected God's grace, emphasizing the weight of our choices in this life (**Matthew 25:34, 41; Revelation 22:14-15**).

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