

# A Question That Cannot Be Answered

## Introduction:

- A. Great questions in the Bible:
    - 1. Genesis 3:9; “Where are you?” **You are in sin!**
    - 2. Genesis 4:9; “Am I my brother’s keeper?” **Of course you are!**
    - 3. Job 4:14; “If a man should die, will he live again?” **Yes, indeed he will.**
    - 4. 1 Kings 18:21; “How long will you hobble (hesitate) between two opinions?” **Too long, my friend.**
    - 5. Matthew 16:26; “What shall it profit a man if he should gain the whole world, but lose his soul?” - **Nothing but eternal misery.**
    - 6. Acts 16:30; “Sirs, what must i do to be saved?” **Believe and be baptized** (Mark 16:16)
    - 7. 1 Peter 4:17; “What will be the outcome of those who do not obey the Gospel?” **Everlasting damnation and suffering in hell.**
    - 8. The Bible answers all these questions and many more.
  - B. Hebrews 2:3 asks a questions that cannot be answered, places us in a quagmire where we sink and there is not lifeline, places us in an eternal maze without an escape route.
    - 1. The devils and demons cannot answer this question and offer a solution.
    - 2. The hosts of heaven cannot answer it either.
    - 3. And neither can the 4 beasts or the 24 elders of Revelation answer the question.
    - 4. Not even God has offered us an answer!
  - C. Let us analyze the question, “how will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation?” (Hebrews 2:3)
- I. “How shall...”
    - A. Implies utter impossibility of answering the question
      - 1. Conveys nothing but futility and frustration, hopelessness to a human mind that tries to have the answers to everything.
      - 2. “How will we” or “How shall we” implies that man will all is intellect and powers cannot come up with an answer to get out of hell!
        - a. It’s like asking: How can a man empty the oceans?
        - b. “”: How can a man grow wings and fly like an eagle?
        - c. “”: How can a sparrow topple the Rock of Gibraltar?
    - B. Many feel they will be able to escape hell once there.
      - 1. Doctrine of universalism (God’s love will empty the halls of hell, He will repent of His word.)
        - a. John 3:16
        - b. 1 John 4:8
        - c. Romans 11:22
      - 2. Doctrine of purgatory
        - a. Luke 16:19-31
        - b. Hebrews 9:27
  - II. “How shall **we** escape?” (all inclusive)
    - A. Inclusive-everyone
      - 1. Romans 3:23; “**All** have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”

## Saved From In Order To Serve

2. Matthew 11:28; "Come to me **all** who are heavy laden and I will give you rest."
  3. Mark 16:15; "Go into **all** the **world**..."
  4. Matthew 25:32; "**All** the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats;"
- B. Some believe ignorance will be the key that unlocks the doors of hell to let them out
1. Acts 17:30
  2. 2 Thessalonians 1:8
- C. Judgment will be for everyone, yet individual (Romans 14:12)
- III. Consider the word escape
- A. Implications: arrest, imprisonment, confinement
1. How can we escape hell? Not even the professional bank robber Slick Willie Sutton who escaped prisons all over the United States will be able to escape the bars of hell.
  2. Rich man and Lazarus (Luke 16:26)
  3. 2 Peter 2:4; Angels committed to the pits of hell
  4. Jude 1:6; Angels reserved in darkness until judgment day.
- B. Hell is not a reform school, a salvage place to be prettied up after rehab and made ready for heaven.
1. Matthew 25:46
  2. 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9
- IV. "If" and "Neglect"
- A. "if" appears over 1500 times in Bible
1. How shall we escape **if** we **neglect** - Notice the insanity of the statement!
  2. Implies utter and complete failure
  3. You don't have to burn your business down in order to run it into the ground, you just have to neglect it. You don't have to run your car into a tree to make it a pile of junk, you just have to neglect it.
- B. One talent man (Matthew 25:30)
1. He wasn't a drunk, murderer, or immoral man.
  2. He was condemned for neglecting to use and profit from the talent he had been given. (James 4:17; "Therefore, to him who knows to do the right thing and does not do it, to him it is sin.")
- C. Felix (Acts 24:25) For all we know he died in his sins due to neglect.
- D. A sailor deserves to be lost at sea if he refuses a compass, a hungry man deserves to go hungry if he refuses a meal, a sick man deserves to continue sick if he refuses medicine.
- V. "Great Salvation" This is what is often neglected.
- A. Our salvation is great because of the **DONOR-God the Father is the DONOR**
1. John 3:16
  2. Romans 6:23 Salvation is a gift from a loving and giving God!
  3. 2 Corinthians 9:15; "But thanks be to God for His unspeakable gift."
- B. It is great because Jesus did more than simply talk about it, He went to the cross for that salvation.
1. A salvation without the blood and the cross is a false religion. (Hebrews 9:22; "Without the shedding of the blood, there can be no remission of sins.")
  2. There is only One who can save us, the One who shed His blood for us.
  3. Story about the priest who went to visit a dying man in the hospital and offered to grant absolution. The man asked to see his hands.
- C. Our salvation is great when compared to other salvations

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1. Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam and others are figments of man's imaginations, their holy books are the products of their human minds.
2. Our salvation is greater even than that of Lot's, Noah's and Israel's! It is greater because ours is salvation from the guilt, the dominion, and the condemnation of sin! (Romans 8:1)

### Conclusion:

- A. The world of creation is great, but it is not the greatest work of God. The greatest work of God is recreation (John 3:3, 5; Titus 3:5) It is not versions of the Bible, but conversions in the Bible (Matthew 18:3; Acts 3:19)
- B. There is no other sacrifice (Hebrews 10:26)
  1. One might escape a guarded city (2 Corinthians 11:32-33)
  2. One might escape prison (Acts 12:1-19; 16:27)
- C. None will escape from an angry God who has been ignored (Acts 10:26-31; 12:29)
- D. The Good news is that we can avoid hell altogether and go to heaven if we will obey the Gospel and live for Christ (Acts 8:35-39, Titus 2:11-12).
- E. Sermon idea taken from lecture notes.