

A WAY OF ESCAPE



No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.

- I Corinthians 10:13

Observations

< EXIT >

- ✓ We Are Not Alone – Except by Choice!
- ✓ God Provides the Way of Escape
- ✓ The “Escape” Route May Not Be The One We Want
- ✓ How Do We Find the Escape Route?

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The Context

- ❖ Chapter 9:23-27
 - ❖ I do all things for the sake of the gospel
 - ❖ Run in such a way that you may win
 - ❖ I discipline my body and make it my slave, so as to not be disqualified
- ❖ Chapter 10:1-5
 - ❖ The entire nation was “baptized” into Moses
 - ❖ The entire nation had the same opportunities for spiritual food and drink
 - ❖ The entire nation were taught from the same divine source – Jesus Christ
 - ❖ The entire nation (except 2 men) were not pleasing to God
- ❖ Chapter 10:6-13
 - ❖ Do not crave evil things, be idolaters, try the Lord, grumble (v.6-11)
 - ❖ Do not think you cannot be tempted (v.12)
 - ❖ Do not think you can't overcome



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We are Not Alone,
Except by Choice

- ❖ Temptation – *Peirasmos* (a trial, a “putting to proof”)
 - ❖ Galatians 4:14 – Paul’s physical ailment was called a temptation
 - ❖ James 1:2 – Consider it all joy when you encounter various temptations
 - ❖ I Tim. 6:9 – But those who want to get rich fall into temptation...

- ❖ Nothing that can overtake us that is not common to man
 - ❖ There is nothing that we experience that others have not gone through!
 - ❖ Consider what the word common means!
 - ❖ If we are alone in our trials, it is because we choose to be!

- ❖ Consider: Why can’t we (don’t we) help each other? (Jas. 5:16; Romans 12)
 - ❖ Everyone else has their lives together
 - ❖ No one else has the same problems I do
 - ❖ No one else has done things as bad as I have
 - ❖ People will judge me



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God Provides the Way of Escape

- ❖ II Peter 2:4-9 “the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from *peirasmos*”
 - ❖ Ancient world vs. Noah (v.5)
 - ❖ Sodom and Gomorrah vs. Lot (v.6-8)
 - ❖ The world vs. the godly (v.9)

- ❖ Psalm 37:23-24
 - The steps of a man are established by the Lord,*
 - And He delights in his way*
 - When He falls, he will not be hurled headlong*
 - Because the Lord is the One who holds his hand*

- ❖ How diligently (desperately) are we searching for the way of escape?
 - ❖ Assumes that we don't like where we are...
 - ❖ Assumes that we recognize the danger that we are in...
 - ❖ Are we looking for a way out, or looking for a way to stay in?



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Escape Route Not What We Want

- ❖ Paul says God will provide the way of escape, “*so that you will be able to endure it...*”
 - ❖ Galatians 4:12-15 Paul’s *peirasmos*
 - ❖ II Cor. 12:7-10 Thorn in the flesh
 - ❖ Paul’s “escape” was contentment, boasting in his weakness “*so the power of Christ may dwell in me.*”

- ❖ What are we praying for during our temptation?
 - ❖ For God to take it away, give us a permanent “escape” – Appropriate!!
 - ❖ Are we also praying
 - ❖ For His will to be done?
 - ❖ For the faith that is required to endure?
 - ❖ For the wisdom that is possible from every temptation?



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How Do I Find My Escape Route?

- ❖ God is the one who provides the escape
 - ❖ How much faith do we have?
 - ❖ “God won’t give us what we can’t handle” – NOT what this says!
 - ❖ James 4:2 – *“You do not have because you do not ask.”*

- ❖ Where are my escape routes? James 5:13-16
 - ❖ Prayer (v.13)
 - ❖ The elders (v.14-15)
 - ❖ Each other (v.16)

- ❖ Recognizing that we might get lost on our own
 - ❖ Be prepared – Ephesians 6:13-18

