

ESCAPE

“Escape” is word that elicits many thoughts & emotions, and has many connotations. We may think of a prisoner, even rightly convicted of a crime, who breaks out of prison. It may be that when I go on vacation, I imagine that I am escaping from everyday life, including the cares and worries of a job.

An example that probably sounds even better—to those who try to do good in their live—is the idea of escaping from the evil that is so rampant in our country and the world. We may take measures to try to overcome it, or change it—like reaching out to the lost, or participating in rallies or organizations meant to make a difference. Those are good things to do! God wants us to show His Son living in us; and by doing that, we are confident that God will give the increase, thereby changing at least *a little* bit of the world.

Sadly, what we realize, the more we try and hope to make change in the world around us, is that the world just seems to get worse and worse with each passing moment, and what little change that is made as a result of our work seems about as pointless as trying to stop a raging fire by throwing an ice cube in it. (We are confident that the change made by the gospel in people’s life is as far from pointless as it can get!)

The point is, as much as we might want to escape from the corruption in this world, we just can’t. ...or can we?

The wonderful news is that God tells us we CAN escape!! Hallelujah!

2 Peter 1:4 says, “he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.”

Notice he is talking about the future here: “you *may become* partakers of the divine nature.” One day, that amazing transformation will take place. Then, we are told that this will happen *after* escaping the worldly corruption (which will obviously take place in the future, because it hasn’t happened yet!)

The question we need to ask then, is, “**How** is it that I can escape from all this wickedness?”

I’ll start with the “bad news.” Paul tells the Corinthians in 1 Cor. 5:10 not to associate with immoral people, but he clarifies that instruction by saying he didn’t mean the immoral people of the world, “since then you would need to go out of the world.” The implication is clear: the only way to escape the evil in the world is to leave the world. So, if you’re looking to escape while in this life, as some say, “It ain’t gonna happen.”

BUT WAIT!! THERE’S HOPE!!

Although the ultimate answer to our question was just given—by going out of the world—there’s more to it, so don’t stop reading here, then go trying to find a way out of the world. That won’t be good for anybody!

To get the whole answer, look closer at 2 Pet. 1, and you’ll find out how the escape will happen.

SIDE NOTE FIRST: We should thank God every time we think about the fact that He has given us “everything pertaining to life and godliness.” I need to cry out in thanksgiving because He has

never left me hanging! He doesn't say, "There will be people, who in the end, escape all this madness. THE END." Can you imagine if that was what He had done? It would be like someone tore out the last page of the gripping whodunit you've been reading, and now you'll never know...who done it! We would scream at God in anger, "How could you do this?! How could you just tell us that **some** people will escape, but not tell us who, or HOW?!"

Praise be to Him—He tells! Same passage (2 Pet. 1:3-11):

1. God has already designed the escape plan for us, through "his precious and very great promises," granted to us by "his own glory and excellence." It can't be done by our glory.
2. Because this will be such a marvelous metamorphosis, God wants you to "supplement your faith" with certain qualities (v. 5-7); and be "diligent to *confirm*" that which He is doing for you.
3. "For in this way, there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom..." (v. 11) Here we now see the idea of an *entrance*. In order to *enter* eternal life, we must first leave (ESCAPE) this life, and by God's powerful plan, we will! -gb