

Searching the Scriptures / 90 / How Can Ye Escape The Damnation Of Hell? / Part 5

In our study today, we will consider how one can escape the damnation of Hell. Our three points will be:

- 1. The Impossibility of Human Salvation**
- 2. Christ Came for His People Only**
- 3. Salvation is God’s Prerogative**

1. The Impossibility of Human Salvation

God alone has provided the only escape from the damnation of Hell. The reality is that only God could provide such an escape. Man is incapable of providing a solution for his sin problem because he is spiritually dead, and dead people can do nothing. We see this truth dramatically illustrated in Eze 37:1–4; and 12–14, where God speaks of His elect, the Israel of God, whom He saves: *“The hand of the LORD was upon me, and carried me out in the spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley which was full of bones, And caused me to pass by them round about: and, behold, there were very many in the open valley; and, lo, they were very dry. And he said unto me, Son of man, can these bones live? And I answered, O Lord GOD, thou knowest. Again he said unto me, Prophecy upon these bones, and say unto them, O ye dry bones, hear the word of the LORD... Behold, O my people, I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel. And ye shall know that I am the LORD, when I have opened your graves, O my people, and brought you up out of your graves, And shall put my spirit in you, and ye shall live, and I shall place you in your own land: then shall ye know that I the LORD have spoken it, and performed it, saith the LORD.”*

When the disciples asked the Lord Jesus Christ, *“Who then can be saved?”*, the Lord declared in Mark 10:26–27, *“... With men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible.”*

2. Christ Came for His People Only

Wonderfully, the Bible declares in Jon 2:9, *“Salvation is of the Lord.”* But what does that actually signify? It means that God had to become a man, had to become sin, and had to suffer the equivalent of eternity in Hell for the sins of all His people. Mat. 1:21 teaches, *“And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.”*

We learn that the Lord Jesus had to become sin for His people in order to pay for their sins in Hell eternally. 2 Cor 5:21 declares, *“For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”* He had to become sin as *“the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world”* (Rev 13:8) . Having become sin, God the Son had to be judged by God the Father—this is what took place symbolically as Christ stood before Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor, who did pronounce Him guilty.

However, He was not guilty for any of His own sin—since He had none—but rather He had to bear the sins of all those He came to save. As punishment He then had to suffer the essence of Hell—the eternal wrath of God—on their behalf, as Jon 2:2 portrays, *“... I cried by reason of mine affliction unto the LORD, and he heard me; out of the belly of*

hell cried I, and thou heardest my voice.”

3. Salvation is God’s Prerogative

We cannot understand or imagine that a Holy, Righteous God would show such love, such compassion, and such mercy to fallen human beings who hated God and were in rebellion against Him, that He would suffer the wrath of God on their behalf in order to declare them righteous, or holy, like God Himself.

These people are God’s elect—His sheep, the true Christians, the spiritual Jews—that the Bible talks about. And do they deserve such salvation? Absolutely not. It is all of grace—it is all of mercy—in order that God may alone receive all glory, honor, and praise for His gift of salvation. Tit 3:5–7 says: *“Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.”*

Eph 2:8–9 further adds, *“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.”* 1 Cor 1:26–31 continues to explain that salvation is God’s prerogative so He can receive all the glory: *“For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: That no flesh should glory in his presence. But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.”*

How can we escape the damnation of Hell? Only through the work and faith of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Bible says in Rom 10:17, *“So then, faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”* May God bless you with His abundant grace and everlasting mercy.