

THERE IS DANGER IN DELAY

Hebrews 2:1

Introduction: The Philippian jailer asked Paul and Silas a question which revealed his desire to be saved right then, "...sirs, *what must I do to be saved?...*" The attitude of this man about his salvation should be the attitude of every person who is unsaved, however, sadly, it is not. Countless have put off the opportunity to be saved many times, not realizing the great danger they are in by their delay in accepting Jesus Christ.

I. WHAT IS THE GREAT SALVATION THAT PEOPLE NEGLECT?

1. "Salvation" is deliverance from sin, slavery, and redemption by blood.
 - It is a great salvation because of what it cost God and Jesus, the Son of God.
 - It is a great salvation because of what it has done for people, what it is doing for people and what it will do for people.
2. Salvation saves people from Hell.
 - Unsaved people are hell-bound.
 - *Matthew 13:41-42*
3. Salvation gives the believer in Jesus Christ entrance into heaven.
 - *John 5:24*
 - Heaven is the believer's eternal home.

II. HOW DO PEOPLE NEGLECT THIS GREAT SALVATION?

1. The value of this great salvation is usually not underestimated, but it's most often put off by those who want to wait for a more convenient time.
2. There are those who hear or read the gospel but do nothing about it for whatever reason.
 - *Matthew 13:19*
3. There are those who simply fail to give the gospel very much, if any attention.
 - It's one thing to hear the gospel but another thing to "pay attention."
 - Unheeding, doing nothing, ignoring the gospel, passing the cross of Jesus without any concern will keep a person lost, condemned and damned and on his/her way to hell.

III. THE PENALTY FOR NEGLECTING THIS GREAT SALVATION

1. The penalty is certain.
 - *Hebrews 12:25*
2. The penalty is as sure as the Lord lives.
 - *Romans 14:11-12*
 - People can hide from justice in this world but on their day of judgment before God, there will be no place to hide.
3. The penalty will be just.
 - *Hebrews 2:2*
 - At a great cost, God has provided redemption for everyone, including those who showed no respect or love to Him or an interest in their eternal welfare, but God gave His Son and His Son gave His life in order to keep everyone out of Hell.

IV. THE EXTREME PENALTY FOR NEGLECTING THIS GREAT SALVATION

1. People have many bad things happen to them during their lifetime because of their sins but the extreme penalty for neglecting God's great salvation will come when they stand before God in judgment and that extreme penalty will be eternal damnation in Hell.
2. All unsaved, all who have neglected this great salvation will be in the same Hell.
 - Life here on earth is made up of many classes of people, moral, unrighteous, ungodly and chief sinners.
 - On judgment day, everyone who has neglected God's great salvation will stand on the left hand of God and depart, going into the same punishment.
 - All who have put off accepting Jesus Christ, even those who lived good lives will spend eternity in hell along with the worst people on earth for all neglected God's great salvation.
3. The extreme penalty is referred to as "death" in the Bible.
 - *Romans 6:23*

CONCLUSION:

1. Most people are forgetful, careless and neglectful at times but usually nothing serious happens but to be that way concerning their souls and God's great salvation is extremely dangerous.
2. Countless people have heard the gospel, read the gospel, been told about the gospel and have thought about God's great salvation, but have put off making a positive decision to believe in Jesus.
3. How many have said "I want to, but not right now..."?
4. Hell will have countless people in it who had the opportunity many times to accept God's great salvation but just kept putting off making that life saving decision.
5. Are YOU one of those who has been putting off accepting the Lord Jesus Christ in God's great offer of salvation?