Escaping The Snare Of Satan

Prepared by Nathan L Morrison for Sunday November 25th, 2018

Text: II Timothy 2:26

### Intro

1. Some people after hearing the gospel and counting the cost of becoming a Christian, reject it and choose their own way instead.
2. People have done that since the early days of the gospel!
   1. *Acts 17:32:* The Athenians – “We shall hear you again concerning this.”
   2. *Acts 24:25:* Felix – “Go away for the present, and when I find time I will summon you.”
   3. *Acts 26:28:* King Agrippa – “In a short time you will persuade me to become a Christian.”
3. One of the reasons for teaching the gospel is to bring one to the knowledge of the truth, for them to decide that no matter the cost, their soul is worth it (II Tim. 2:24-25).
   1. II Tim. 2:26: “May come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil…”
      1. The need to come to one’s senses, to escape the snare of the devil is because they had been “held captive by him to do his will.”
      2. The gospel can save – Jn. 8:31-32: Truth sets free!
4. If one is to come to his senses, or to escape, it means what he was doing before was wrong, or not working – being held captive by Satan to do his will!
5. Obeying the gospel, or coming back to God, is to escape Satan’s snare!

#### Coming to the Senses

* 1. One who “comes to their senses” is one who formerly chose to be dominated by the devil.
     1. II Tim. 2:26: Coming to the senses is to escape the snare of the devil.
     2. “Having been held captive by him to do his will.”
     3. The myth is: When one rejects the gospel it is to do his own will.
     4. The truth is: When one rejects the gospel it is to do the will of Satan.
  2. Eph. 4:17-19: The devil uses ignorance to deceive minds.
     1. I Pet. 1:14: The apostle Peter explained the root problem of a sinful life: Moral ignorance. (*Eph. 4:18-19:* Ignorance can cause insensitivity to right)
  3. Eccl. 8:11: Sin deceives one into thinking that there are no consequences to sinful living.
     1. II Thess. 2:8-10: Satan uses false teachers to deceive and to keep people from coming to the truth, so as to be saved. *(II Thess. 1:7-9)*
  4. Coming to the senses is to no longer let Satan control your life!

#### Escaping the Snare of the Devil

* 1. *Lk. 15:11-32:* Jesus told the story of the “prodigal son.”
  2. The prodigal son was not with his senses (in his right mind) when he:
     1. Demanded his inheritance while his father was yet living. (Lk. 15:12)
     2. Went into a foreign country. (Lk. 15:13)
     3. Squandered his inheritance “with loose living.” (Lk. 15:13)
  3. Lk. 15:17: Before he could come home he had to “come to his senses.”
  4. Where was he when he “came to his senses?”
     1. Lk. 15:13-14: Far away from his father. Poor & hungry. No friends – alone!
     2. Lk. 15:16: In the fields feeding swine and wishing he could eat as good as they.
  5. He took stock of his life – recognized his miserable state:
     1. The pigs were eating better than he was! *(Lk. 15:16)*
     2. His father’s hired help were fed better than he was. (Lk. 15:17)
     3. He realized how good a life he had left behind to follow his own will!
     4. He had to humble his heart in subjection to his father’s will, and not his own – “Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in your sight; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me as one of your hired men." *(Vss. 18-19)*
  6. When he followed through and put aside his will to submit himself under the will of his father, Satan was subdued, and he escaped from his snare!
  7. The parallel is when we submit to God, we escape the snares of Satan!
     1. Mt. 26:39: Jesus, our example, submitted His will to God the Father’s.
     2. *Prov. 3:7:* “Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and turn away from evil.”
     3. Js. 4:6-8: When we submit to God, and draw near to Him, we can resist the devil and he will flee from us! (I Cor. 10:13: Take the escape!)
     4. I Pet. 5:9: We resist Satan firm in our faith! *(Eph. 6:11: The armor of God)*
  8. He escaped his old life (his miserable state) because he came to his senses!

#### Held Captive

* 1. II Tim. 2:26: Those who do not escape are still held captive to do Satan’s will!
  2. Rom. 6:20-21: One may forfeit eternal life for the moments of sinful pleasure.
  3. People may destroy their health/bodies by:
     1. Alcohol
     2. Drugs
     3. Sexual immorality:
        1. Contracting vicious diseases.
        2. Unwanted pregnancies.
        3. Embarrassment of discovery of sexual sins.
  4. Greed may cause one to:
     1. Steal
     2. Embezzle money
     3. Lie
     4. Abuse the helpless (older citizens)
     5. Commit murder *(Js. 4:2)*
  5. One may be so attached to the here and now that they:
     1. Heb. 2:1-3: Neglect their own salvation.
        1. *II Pet. 3:9:* Do not repent. (The alternative is to perish)
        2. *Mk. 16:16:* Neglect the Lord’s command to be baptized.
     2. Rev. 2:5: Neglect being restored to their “first love.”
     3. *II Pet. 1:5-11:* Neglect the “Christian virtues” which allows entrance to the kingdom of God. (Vss. 10-11)
  6. One must come to their senses to obey the gospel or repent, and doing so allows one to escape the snares of the devil!

## Conclusion

1. People who “come to their senses” make preparation for eternity! (Mt. 7:13-14)
2. Mk. 5:15: Jesus and His Word can put a person in his/her “right mind.”
   1. The demon-possessed man was insane and caused himself harm. *(Mk. 5:5)*
   2. Once the demon was cast out, he was in his right mind. *(Mk. 5:15)*
   3. So it is for the one who no longer lets Satan control him/her.
   4. Sin is a state of “moral insanity.”
3. It all comes to choice. We are obedient to something: Sin or Righteousness.
   1. Rom. 6:16, 20: When one says he/she does not need the gospel, he/she chooses to be slaves to sin, resulting in death. Whether they realize it or not.
   2. Rom. 6:17-19, 22-23: But when one’s heart is right and conforms their life to God’s will, they are slaves of righteousness, resulting in life – Escape Satan’s snare, choose life!
4. Come to your senses and escape the snare of Satan!
5. If you are not a Christian, you need to be. “Come to your senses!” Repent and be baptized!
6. If a Christian in error, you too need to “come to your senses” as the Prodigal Son did!