

The Fire Escape

“A **fire escape** is a special kind of **emergency exit**, usually mounted to the outside of a building or occasionally inside but separate from the main areas of the building. It provides a method of **escape** in the event of a **fire** or other **emergency** that makes the stairwells inside a building inaccessible.” {copied}

It is reported that Anna Connelly invented the fire escape in the 1800s because there was no way to escape the fire in a burning building except by jumping out of a window. With the invention of the fire escape an untold number of lives have been saved from a fiery destruction.

People, being what they are, will often view something with great skepticism and that, sometimes, to their detriment. For a moment, picture yourself in a building that is on fire. A fire escape is available and all you need to do is use it and escape to safety. No other escape is available and by not using the fire escape, your life will be destroyed by fire. With the building on fire, would you think yourself foolish to play around and act as if nothing were happening or important? Would you think other people foolish for acting like that under the same circumstances?

In the Bible, God’s Word, the words “hell fire”, “everlasting fire”, “furnace of fire”, “lake of fire”, are recorded. All of these, and more, refer to the destruction of a lost soul, a person who has not repented of sin and trusted Jesus Christ as personal Saviour. One of the most frightening verses in the Bible reads, “But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.” {Revelation 21:8} This verse speaks of those who have, for whatever reason, rejected Jesus Christ as Saviour. In two other Bible verses Jesus was speaking when He said, “I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.” {Luke 13:3, 5} To repent simply means a turning, to turn from the way one has been living and to turn to God. As one old-time preacher once said, it means to take God’s side against your sin. Sadly, many do not want to do that; that is so foolish!

Jesus Christ, God the Son, took to Himself the body of man so that He could die on the Cross of Calvary and, by doing so, He paid our sin debt and freed us from the curse of the law. “Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed *is* every one that hangeth on a tree:” {Galatians 3:13} And why should He do that for us? Because of His great love for us! “But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” {Romans 5:8} God has promised eternal life for all who believe in Jesus. “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” {John 3:16} He made this promise to everyone, no matter what they may have done. “For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.” {Romans 10:13} And it is **ALL BY FAITH** and **NOT** of anything we could possibly do. “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.” {Ephesians 2:8-9} Salvation is made possible by the incorruptible blood of Jesus Christ. “Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:” {1 Peter 1:18-19}

Christians, those who have truly repented of sin and trusted Jesus Christ as Saviour, are not perfect in this life; they are just sinners saved by the grace of God. However, they are also people who want to live their life in a way that will bring honor and glory to the Saviour. “What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? or ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.” {1 Corinthians 6:19-20} And God’s promise to those who believe is this, “These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.” {1 John 5:13}

For those who have never repented of sin and trusted Jesus Christ as Saviour, as kindly as it may be expressed, this is the only **fire escape** from a burning hell. They cannot and will not enter God’s Heaven! “And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither *whatsoever* worketh abomination, or *maketh* a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb’s book of life.” {Revelation 21:27}

The question remains, how will you respond to the invitation to repent of sin and trust Jesus Christ as Saviour?

~Richard A. Ciarrocca/August 2020

All Scripture references are KJV