

The Way that seemed Right



As Portugal sweltered under 40° Celsius temperatures during the summer of 2017, a danger lay silently waiting to wreak havoc on the country. On June 17th, fire broke out in central Portugal in the municipality of Pedrógão Grande. The wildfire spread rapidly due to atmospheric instability which resulted in downbursts – strong winds blowing straight down at the ground and spreading embers. The fire would also spread to the neighbouring municipalities.

As the fire spread, the local citizens prepared to evacuate the area. Personal effects were gathered up and put into vehicles to be taken along to protect them from being destroyed by the fire. Escape roads were chosen, and families set out. Due to the shifting winds and scorching heat, the direction the fire would spread was difficult to predict. As local residents made their way to what could have been safety, the fire changed course and their vehicles were surrounded by thick smoke. People perished due to automobile collisions in the dense smoke. People also perished because they could not see to navigate their way out. They were in the path of the fire and burned even while sitting in their vehicles. Twenty-two people died on one road (from Figueiro dos Vinhos to Castanheira de Pera) alone.

How safe is the road on which you are traveling?

What are your thoughts as you accumulate your possessions and make your way along the road of life?

Portugal's Prime Minister asked the head of the Republican National Guard why the EN-261-1 road had not been closed. On that road 47 lives were lost. The response came back that there had been no indication of any danger on that stretch of road. Quite likely the lack of information came as result of the fire taking out the communication network.

In Proverbs 14:12, it says "There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death".

The local residents, in Portugal, set out to escape the fire on a road they thought would lead them to safety. Sadly, for some, it ended in death.

Where is the road you are on heading? Jesus said,

"I am the way, the truth, and the life" (John 14:6).

Accept the Lord Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour. Be on the road that leads to a guaranteed home in Heaven when this life is over!

The decision about which road to take away from the fire cost these people their physical lives. Do not let the decision you make today cost you your spiritual life.

WHAT IS YOUR HOPE?

What is your hope about your soul? Have you any, or have you none? Can you tell me in what way you expect to be counted righteousness before God?

Depend upon it, these are very serious questions. You and I are *dying men*. After death comes the judgment.

- What is your hope of acquittal in that solemn day?
- What are you going to plead on your behalf before God?



- Shall you say that I have done my duty to God?
- Shall you say that I have done our duty to our neighbour?
- Shall you bring forward your prayers, your good works, your morality, your church going, your amends?
- Shall you ask to be accepted by God for any of these things?

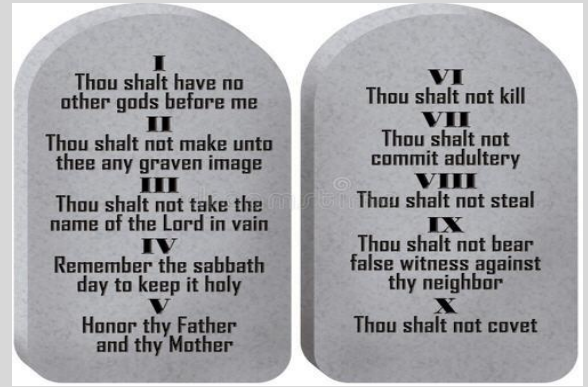
**HOW SHALL WE ESCAPE
IF WE NEGLECT
SO GREAT SALVATION?**

Which of these things will stand God's eye?

Which of them will actually justify you?

Which of them will carry you clear through judgment, and land you safe in glory?

Absolutely None!



Take any commandment of the ten and let us examine ourselves by it.

We have broken it repeatedly. We cannot answer God.

Take any of us and look into our ways—and we are nothing but sinners.

There is but one verdict. We are all guilty—we all ought to die—we all deserve hell. How then can we come before God?

We must come in the Name of Jesus, standing on no other ground, pleading no other plea than this,

**"Christ died on the cross
for the ungodly—and I trust
in Him."**

Oh, believe me, Christ must be all the hope of everyone who would be justified and saved. You must be content to go to heaven as a beggar—saved by free grace alone—simply as a believer in Jesus—or you will never be saved at all. J.C Ryle

**"For it is by grace you
have been saved, through
faith—and this not from
yourselves, it is the gift of
God, not by works, so that
no one can boast!"**

Ephesians 2:8-9

NONE BUT JESUS

WEeping WILL NOT SAVE ME—

Tho' my face were bathed in tears,
That could not allay my fears,
Could not wash the sins of years—
Weeping will not save me.

Refrain

Jesus wept and died for me;
Jesus suffered on the tree;
Jesus waits to make me free;
He alone can save me.

WORKING WILL NOT SAVE ME—

Purest deeds that I can do,
Holiest thoughts and feelings, too,
Cannot form my soul anew—
Working will not save me.

Refrain

WAITING WILL NOT SAVE ME—

Helpless, guilty, lost, I lie;
In my ear is mercy's cry;
If I wait I can but die—
Waiting will not save me.

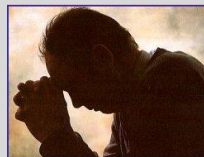
Refrain

FAITH IN CHRIST WILL SAVE ME—

Let me trust Thy weeping Son,
Trust the work that He has done;
To His arms, Lord, help me run—
Faith in Christ will save me.

Refrain

POINT TO PONDER



Neither is there salvation in any
other: for there is none other
name under heaven given among
men, whereby we must be saved.

Acts 4:12

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