

When we know God is with us we will have little concern with who or what stands against us. Rom. 1:31 says, "*What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?*" This verse reminds me of Elisha and his servant.

The king of Syria was seeking to ambush Israel, but Elisha consistently warned Israel of the place of the intended surprise attack. When the king learned of the prophet's interference to his plans he sent men out to capture him. An army surrounded the city and caused great distress for Elisha's servant.

2 Kings 6:15 reads, *And when the servant of the man of God was risen early, and gone forth, behold, an host compassed the city both with horses and chariots. And his servant said to him, Alas, my master! How shall we do?*

Like many adults, this servant only saw the problems. He only considered the size of the opposition. We are perplexed by the bills, by the job, by the relationships, and by the limits of our own abilities to address these issues.

Elisha told his servant not to be afraid. The army of the Lord was greater than the army of the Syrians. The prophet prayed for God to open the eyes of the servant. When this request was granted the servant saw a mountain full of horses and chariots of fire that surrounded Elisha (2 Kings 6:16-17).

The way to escape our problems is to submit in faith to the true God by obeying the Gospel. When we are His, He will defend us and open our eyes through prayer to His defenses. Elisha had little concern over what the physical army could do when he had a spiritual force protecting him. We can have the same comfort. God grants us the great escape from this world.

# Mooreville church of Christ

720 N. Indianapolis Road

Mooreville, IN 46158

**April 30, 2017**

## Assemblies

### **Sunday:**

9:30 a.m. Bible Study

10:30 a.m. Worship

5:00 p.m. Worship

### **Wednesday:**

7:00 p.m. Bible Study

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Moorevillecoc.com

**A faith that does  
not work is a  
faith that does  
not save souls.**

Welcome to our worship. We are simply New Testament Christians with no ties to any denomination. We are an autonomous congregation with no earthly headquarters. We submit to Jesus and the teachings as are provided for us in the Bible.

We believe the Bible is the inspired word of God and is without error. We believe we need to obey the Gospel in order to be saved from our sins and be granted access into the kingdom of heaven. This access comes from His grace which is received through our obedient faith.

We would be happy to study the Bible with you to show you what God has revealed to man. His word is not difficult to understand. It is the errors of modern religions that cause most of the confusion. If you would like to study please tell one of the men of your interest. Thank you again for joining us today.

# The Great Escape

Ron Roberts

Life was much simpler when we were children. Mom provided food. Dad fixed the swing set. Our main concerns were with getting a bicycle or getting our homework done. But in time we grew up and were introduced to adult size worries: Romance, Home Repairs, Health Insurance, Taxes, Employment, Retirement, and a dozen other items.

Paul said when he became a man he *put away childish things* (1 Cor. 13:11). His manner of thinking, speaking, and behaving changed as an adult. His concerns changed too, as do ours.

When we grow up so do our problems. Men seek ways to escape these pressures. *“How can I get away from all these issues? How can I keep them from burdening my life and making me miserable? How can I find happiness amidst all this turmoil?”*

Men have tried different methods to escape, but their devices do not relieve the problems. They simply distract them momentarily and then add more difficulties to life.

Consider the person who has pressure at work. Not wanting to bring his worried brow home, he stops at the tavern for “happy hour”. After a few drinks he feels better and goes home. The problems at work are not fixed. They will be there tomorrow. The drinking adds another problem. His spouse does not approve of drinking. She may assume he is seeing another girl. The alcohol could lead to an accident and an arrest. This method of escape is only adding more problems.

Maybe you have marital problems. Your wife nags or your husband is lazy. You fight daily over your spouse’s flaws that they are unwilling to repair. Since you do not like spending time with your mate but you do like the opposite sex, you develop an affair with someone you meet at work or in the neighborhood. The issues at home are not fixed. The flawed character of your mate is only removed from your attention.

You are simply distracted from them because of your infatuation with your new partner. But it will not be long before this partner’s flaws appear and irritate you as well. If you have a conscience you will also have the problem of guilt for your behavior. You now have the problem of concealing the affair. You have the fear of a divorce and discovery. You fear the loss of children in the settlement. The method of escape has not worked again.

Adults turn to alcohol, affairs, drugs, and gambling to get away from the burdens in life. But these choices only bring more burdens. Often the distraction becomes an addiction. The addiction costs you your house, your family, your job, and your health. If you are a Christian you are aware that it will also cost you the church and your soul.

There are also some adults who will turn to manmade religions to cope with their problems. The same way the ancient Gentiles invented idols who were suppose to increase crops, fishing, and victories; so men today invent “churches” that are suppose to deliver them from problems. But these institutions remove guilt without removing sin. They give a feeling of holiness without providing the genuine article. They assure their members of salvation without requiring the moral changes needed to obtain God’s approval. The immorality and its problems continue even though they are in a church. In short, they do not remove the problems. They simply mask them with empty promises until judgment.

When Paul said he gave up childishness he did not mean child likeness. Jesus said to enter the kingdom we must become as a child. *“Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein”* (Matt. 10:15). What Jesus was telling us is that we must escape the adult problems through a child like trust in Him. It was faith in our parents that kept us from worry as a child. Faith in God will do the same thing for us as an adult. We will see the burdens lightened as they shrink into perspective when we serve God. How important is an electric bill in comparison to eternal life? The true Christian is developed beyond the mundane concerns of life.