

The River of Death

by Martin Knapp

The sermon explores the dangers of sin as represented by the River of Death and calls for salvation through Jesus Christ.

Scripture: Genesis 3:6, Matthew 7:13, Romans 6:23, 1 Peter 5:8, Revelation 20:15

Topics: "Consequences Of Sin", "Eternal Salvation"

Description

Martin Knapp delivers a powerful sermon on the consequences of sin as described in Romans 6:23, highlighting the River of Death that flows through the Land of Sin, filled with dangers and traps that lead souls to eternal despair. This ancient and deep river, originating from the Garden of Eden, is popular among the deceived and captivating in its deception, luring many to their doom. Satan, the mastermind behind this treacherous river, uses various baits and snares to entice people onto its deadly path, leading them to the Falls of Eternal Despair and the burning Hell. Knapp urges listeners to heed the warnings in God's Word and choose the Life-boat of Salvation with Jesus as the Pilot to escape the clutches of this deceptive and destructive river.

Transcript

"For the wages of sin is death." -- Rom. vi, 23.

This book is a description of the River of Death, its Branches, and its dangers, and how to escape them. Study the foregoing picture of it very carefully, as it will be often referred to.

This River flows through the "Land of Sin," better known by some as the "Land of Selfishness," and by others as the "Land of Unbelief." This Land abounds with sterile deserts and deadly swamps, and is infested by ravenous wild beasts and venomous serpents. Pitfalls and quicksands are numerous. The inhabitants were lured into it by Satan, and multitudes have and are perishing in spite of the heroic efforts put forth by the King of Heaven and His Son to rescue them. The River of Death, with its Tributaries, flows through this Land, poisoning the inhabitants, and bearing them over the Falls of Eternal Despair to their awful doom and despair.

It is an old River; one of the very oldest in all the World. Its source is way back in the Garden of Eden, when our first parents fell into its fatal flood and lost their spiritual lives.

It is a deep River, so deep that all who sink in it rise no more, unless rescued by Divine Power. Its banks are so high and steep that no one has ever been able, unaided, to climb them, and millions of souls have gone down in its depths.

It is a popular River -- not with the King of Heaven, nor His Son, nor His Spirit, nor His people, but with the Arch Deceiver and the multitudes he is dragging down.

It is a fascinating River. So fascinating that, though its people know their peril and final doom, they frequently resist every appeal and disregard every warning for the momentary pleasure or profit of the ride upon its bosom. They are all the victims of a sort of spiritual insanity, by which the will and affections are deranged, and domineer over the reason and the judgment.

It is a swift River, Its current is so strong that no one, unaided, can resist it, and its waters and banks are alive with poisonous serpents that hiss and sting and kill.

It finally leaps over the greatest Falls in all the World -- the Falls of Eternal Despair -- and sweeps its victims on into the bottomless Ocean of a burning Hell, where they are "tormented, day and night, for ever and ever."

There is no other river or stream in all the Universe whose currents thus fill the Ocean of Eternal Doom. Hence Satan himself takes great delight in it, superintends it from the beginning to the end, and, with his imps, sets multitudes of baits and snares to induce people to venture upon its treacherous bosom.

It is a deceptive River. He has a way of making it seem to shimmer and ripple in the sunshine like a great silvery sheen, and the unthinking, unawakened one would not dream of the swift undercurrents, the rapids, the angry, foaming whirlpools, the sudden, maddening dash over the Falls of Eternal Despair.

But not only is this true about the waters, but there floats about a thin, transparent cloud of a peculiar chloroform, so sweet and fragrant to the senses that the unwary boater drinks it in, not realizing that, like the scent of the lotus-flower, it lulls into forgetfulness, so that eternal things are swallowed up in the dreamy pleasures of today; and he believes he is on his way to heaven, whenever a second is bringing him closer and closer to the sweeping whirlpools. Satan has many agents at work urging people to take these rides.

Not only does he urge them to take the ride, but, once safely in the boat, he persuades them to be their own pilot and to dare the middle of the stream, scorning the Life-boat of Salvation, with Jesus as the Pilot, which would safely carry them to the Plains of Regeneration, from whence the ascent to Holiness Heights and Heaven is easy, and there they should spend a glorious Eternity.

Millions have believed his lies, purposing to sail only a "short while," and then return, but too late they find the unseen current so swift and strong they are flung about hither and thither as a toy, and sweep over the merciless Falls, stung by many a scorpion of sin, and shrieking, "Too late!" "Too late!" "I am lost!" "O, is there no help?" "Undone!" "Forever undone!" the awful, anguished cry to ring through the caverns of the doomed and damned even forever.

"To be forewarned is to be forearmed." Hence God has told us all about this "River" in His Word; all about the heroic expedition of His Son from Glory's dazzling heights to earth's dark night to rescue souls from Satan's power, from this River's awful flood, and the fearful Falls of Eternal Despair, and the burning Lake of Fire beyond.

Would you like to know more about it? Then read the following chapters. Before you read, promise me one thing; namely, if you find you have been deceived, and are drifting on this fatalStream, that you will cry to God for help, break away from the enchanted spell that Satan may havethrown around you, and leap into the Life-boat of Salvation which the Savior brings to your side. Will you not?

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