

AVOID, AVOIDABLE, AVOIDED, AVOIDING, AVOIDS

After Adam and Eve ate of the fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, they tried to **avoid** God's presence.

- **Genesis 3:8:** "And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden."

Shem and Japheth deliberately **avoided** seeing their father Noah's nakedness.

- **Genesis 9:23:** "And Shem and Japheth took a garment, and laid it upon both their shoulders, and went backward, and covered the nakedness of their father; and their faces were backward, and they saw not their father's nakedness."

In the days immediately after the Flood, people thought that if they made a name for themselves they could **avoid** being scattered over the whole world.

- **Genesis 11:4:** "And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth."

We must seek to **avoid** sinning in ignorance. God holds people accountable for sins committed in ignorance (as can be seen

with Abimelech, who didn't realize that Sarai was a married woman but was held responsible anyway).

- **Genesis 20:2-3:** "And Abraham said of Sarah his wife, She is my sister: and Abimelech king of Gerar sent, and took Sarah. But God came to Abimelech in a dream by night, and said to him, Behold, thou art but a dead man, for the woman which thou hast taken; for she is a man's wife."

Jacob didn't allow his livestock to breed with Laban's livestock, to **avoid** creating livestock that would be of a solid color and therefore belong to Laban.

- **Genesis 30:40:** "And Jacob did separate the lambs, and set the faces of the flocks toward the ringstraked, and all the brown in the flock of Laban; and he put his own flocks by themselves, and put them not unto Laban's cattle."

God gave Pharaoh an entire day to repent and free the Israelites, and **avoid** the coming hailstorm.

- **Exodus 9:18:** "Behold, to morrow about this time I will cause it to rain a very grievous hail, such as hath not been in Egypt since the foundation thereof even until now."

Under the Mosaic Law, God told the Israelites that some diseases could be **avoided** by not committing certain sins.

- **Exodus 15:26:** "And said, If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the LORD that healeth thee."

Taking a census of the Israelites wasn't forbidden by the Mosaic Law. However, whenever a census was taken, each of the Israelites had to give money to God in order to **avoid** being hit by a plague.

- **Exodus 30:12:** "When thou takest the sum of the children of Israel after their number, then shall they give every man a ransom for his soul unto the LORD, when thou numberest them; that there be no plague among them, when thou numberest them."

When the donkey that Balaam was riding thrust herself against the wall to **avoid** the angel of the Lord, she crushed Balaam's foot against the wall.

- **Numbers 22:25:** "And when the ass saw the angel of the LORD, she thrust herself unto the wall, and crushed Balaam's foot against the wall: and he smote her again."

Moses didn't think it was fair that the tribes of Reuben and Gad should **avoid** going to war in Canaan while the rest of the nation fought to claim the promised land.

- **Numbers 32:6:** "And Moses said unto the children of Gad and to the children of Reuben, Shall your brethren go to war, and shall ye sit here?"

Under the Mosaic Law, those who accidentally killed someone else weren't allowed to offer some other form of payment in order to **avoid** having to live in the city of refuge. That wasn't allowed.

- **Numbers 35:32:** "And ye shall take no satisfaction for him that is fled to the city of his refuge, that he should come again to dwell in the land, until the death of the priest."

If the Israelites had waited a few days and not immediately made an alliance with the Gibeonites, they would have learned the truth about them and could have **avoided** a mistake.

- **Joshua 9:16:** "And it came to pass at the end of three days after they had made a league with them, that they heard that they were their neighbours, and that they dwelt among them."

In the days of Shamgar and Jael, travelers **avoided** the highways and found other routes. (Apparently the highways were dangerous.)

- **Judges 5:6:** "In the days of Shamgar the son of Anath, in the days of Jael, the highways were unoccupied, and the travellers walked through byways."

When Samson saw that the lion he had killed now had bees and honey in its dead body, he used his hands and took some of the honey. (As a Nazarite he was required to **avoid** dead bodies because they would make him unclean, but he took the honey anyway.)

- **Judges 14:8-9:** "And after a time he returned to take her, and he turned aside to see the carcase of the lion: and, behold, there was a swarm of bees and honey in the carcase of the lion. And he took thereof in his hands, and went on eating, and came to his father and mother, and

he gave them, and they did eat: but he told not them that he had taken the honey out of the carcase of the lion."

Ruth's nearest kinsman was so selfish that he was willing to publicly humiliate himself in front of the elders of the city in order to **avoid** doing what God required him to do. Because of this, he missed his opportunity to be in the line of the Messiah.

- **Ruth 4:8:** "Therefore the kinsman said unto Boaz, Buy it for thee. So he drew off his shoe."

Eli did nothing to **avoid** the wrath of God falling upon him and his household. He ignored what God told him and didn't repent.

- **1 Samuel 3:18:** "And Samuel told him every whit, and hid nothing from him. And he said, It is the LORD: let him do what seemeth him good."

When Saul tried to kill David with the javelin, David didn't defend himself. Instead he **avoided** the attack.

- **1 Samuel 18:11:** "And Saul cast the javelin; for he said, I will smite David even to the wall with it. And David avoided out of his presence twice."

The reason Achish told David to go home and not join them in battle was to **avoid** displeasing the lords of the Philistines.

- **1 Samuel 29:7:** "Wherefore now return, and go in peace, that thou displease not the lords of the Philistines."

When David transported the Ark of the Covenant from the house of Obededom to Jerusalem, he wore a linen ephod. (However, he didn't wear anything under it and therefore exposed himself. The Mosaic Law required priests to wear undergarments to **avoid** doing that, but David didn't do that.)

- **2 Samuel 6:14:** "And David danced before the LORD with all his might; and David was girded with a linen ephod."

When Michal condemned David for exposing himself in public (because he didn't wear anything under his linen ephod, even though the Mosaic Law required wearing underwear specifically to **avoid** having priests expose themselves), he didn't apologize.

- **2 Samuel 6:21:** "And David said unto Michal, It was before the LORD, which chose me before thy father, and before all his house, to appoint me ruler over the people of the LORD, over Israel: therefore will I play before the LORD."

After David had Absalom brought back to Jerusalem, David then **avoided** seeing Absalom for two years (which is a bizarre thing to do).

- **2 Samuel 14:28:** "So Absalom dwelt two full years in Jerusalem, and saw not the king's face."

When Josiah went to fight against Necho, Necho told him to **avoid** meddling with God so that God didn't destroy him.

- **2 Chronicles 35:21:** "But he sent ambassadors to him, saying, What have I to do with thee, thou king of Judah? I come not against thee this day, but against the house

wherewith I have war: for God commanded me to make haste: forbear thee from meddling with God, who is with me, that he destroy thee not."

We must fight against sin and **avoid** it. We must have no part of sin.

- **Nehemiah 13:26:** "Did not Solomon king of Israel sin by these things? yet among many nations was there no king like him, who was beloved of his God, and God made him king over all Israel: nevertheless even him did outlandish women cause to sin."

Because of all the things that happened to Job, he was afraid of God (but not afraid enough to **avoid** accusing God of error).

- **Job 9:35:** "Then would I speak, and not fear him; but it is not so with me."

Job wanted to **avoid** the time of God's wrath by being dead, and then he wanted to be resurrected after the time of His wrath was done.

- **Job 14:13:** "O that thou wouldest hide me in the grave, that thou wouldest keep me secret, until thy wrath be past, that thou wouldest appoint me a set time, and remember me!"

Even the mightiest warriors **avoided** stirring up the leviathan, and didn't fight against them (because they knew they couldn't win).

- **Job 41:10:** "None is so fierce that dare stir him up: who

then is able to stand before me?"

In order to **avoid** falling in life we need to walk in integrity and put our trust in the Lord.

- **Psalm 26:1:** "Judge me, O LORD; for I have walked in mine integrity: I have trusted also in the LORD; therefore I shall not slide."

If we want to **avoid** being chastened by God then we must not sin.

- **Psalm 38:3:** "There is no soundness in my flesh because of thine anger; neither is there any rest in my bones because of my sin."

Avoiding sin has great advantages. Sin adds a heavy weight to our life and is a terrible burden.

- **Psalm 38:4:** "For mine iniquities are gone over mine head: as an heavy burden they are too heavy for me."

Choosing wisdom instead of foolishness can make our life much better. There are some problems we can **avoid** through wisdom.

- **Psalm 38:5:** "My wounds stink and are corrupt because of my foolishness."

Choosing righteousness instead of sin can cause us to **avoid** some problems that would otherwise cause us to mourn.

- **Psalm 38:5-6:** "My wounds stink and are corrupt because of my foolishness. I am troubled; I am bowed down greatly; I go mourning all the day long."

Choosing to not sin can have a positive physical impact. There are some problems we can **avoid** through righteousness.

- **Psalm 38:5, 7:** "My wounds stink and are corrupt because of my foolishness. ... For my loins are filled with a loathsome disease: and there is no soundness in my flesh."

Wicked things should be **avoided**.

- **Psalm 101:3:** "I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside; it shall not cleave to me."

In order to **avoid** sinning against God, we must know His word.

- **Psalm 119:11:** "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee."

The psalmist said he had refrained his feet from walking in every evil way. (In other words, he had **avoided** doing evil.)

- **Psalm 119:101:** "I have refrained my feet from every evil way, that I might keep thy word."

The psalmist said the reason he **avoided** doing evil was so that he might keep God's word.

- **Psalm 119:101:** "I have refrained my feet from every evil way, that I might keep thy word."

We must never try to **avoid** the snares of the wicked by rejecting God's law. The way we overcome evil is *not* through sin, compromise, and pragmatism.

- **Psalm 119:110:** "The wicked have laid a snare for me: yet I erred not from thy precepts."

It's good to seek to **avoid** those who do evil.

- **Psalm 119:150:** "They draw nigh that follow after mischief: they are far from thy law."

We should seek to **avoid** saying anything that's wrong or evil.

- **Psalm 141:3:** "Set a watch, O LORD, before my mouth; keep the door of my lips."

It's foolish to put a trap in plain sight where it can be seen and **avoided**.

- **Proverbs 1:17:** "Surely in vain the net is spread in the sight of any bird."

If you want to **avoid** calamity, anguish, and distress then you need wisdom.

- **Proverbs 1:20, 24-27:** "Wisdom crieth without; she uttereth her voice in the streets: ... Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no

man regarded; But ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof: I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh; When your fear cometh as desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish cometh upon you."

The path to **avoiding** evil is to accept wisdom and reproof.

- **Proverbs 1:33:** "But whoso hearkeneth unto me shall dwell safely, and shall be quiet from fear of evil."

We should seek to **avoid** those who speak evil things.

- **Proverbs 2:12:** "To deliver thee from the way of the evil man, from the man that speakech froward things;"

We should seek to **avoid** the paths of darkness, and not join those who are walking in them.

- **Proverbs 2:12-13:** "To deliver thee from the way of the evil man, from the man that speaketh froward things; Who leave the paths of uprightness, to walk in the ways of darkness;"

We should exercise discretion and understanding so we can **avoid** women who have forsaken God.

- **Proverbs 2:17:** "Which forsaketh the guide of her youth, and forgetteth the covenant of her God."

We should exercise discretion and understanding, so we can

avoid getting ensnared in a lifestyle that leads to death.

- **Proverbs 2:18:** "For her house inclineth unto death, and her paths unto the dead."

Good men **avoid** immoral women.

- **Proverbs 2:20:** "That thou mayest walk in the way of good men, and keep the paths of the righteous."

Those who don't fear the Lord may have problems that could have been **avoided** if they did fear the Lord.

- **Proverbs 3:7-8:** "Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the Lord, and depart from evil. It shall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones."

Those who lack wisdom and discretion are in danger. They may stumble in ways that could have been **avoided**.

- **Proverbs 3:23:** "Then shalt thou walk in thy way safely, and thy foot shall not stumble."

The path of the wicked must be **avoided**.

- **Proverbs 4:14:** "Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil men."

God doesn't tell us to seek out temptation. Instead He commands us to go out of our way to **avoid** temptation altogether.

- **Proverbs 4:14-15:** "Enter not into the path of the wicked,

and go not in the way of evil men. Avoid it, pass not by it, turn from it, and pass away."

We must **avoid** those who love violence.

- **Proverbs 4:17:** "For they eat the bread of wickedness, and drink the wine of violence."

The Bible gives repeated, strong warnings about the dangers of immoral women. It warns us that they lead to pain and death and tells us to **avoid** them.

- **Proverbs 5:3-4:** "For the lips of a strange woman drop as an honeycomb, and her mouth is smoother than oil: But her end is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a two-edged sword."

The path of an immoral woman can't be understood. Instead it should be **avoided** altogether.

- **Proverbs 5:6:** "Lest thou shouldest ponder the path of life, her ways are moveable, that thou canst not know them."

One of the key ways to fight temptation is **avoiding** it altogether by not getting anywhere near it.

- **Proverbs 5:8:** "Remove thy way far from her, and come not nigh the door of her house:"

Immoral women can be **avoided** by listening to instruction and reproof. However, those who hate instruction and reproof

are in great danger of being destroyed by them.

- **Proverbs 5:12-14:** "And say, How have I hated instruction, and my heart despised reproof; And have not obeyed the voice of my teachers, nor inclined mine ear to them that instructed me! I was almost in all evil in the midst of the congregation and assembly."

Teachers should teach people to walk in the ways of God, and to **avoid** immorality.

- **Proverbs 5:13:** "And have not obeyed the voice of my teachers, nor inclined mine ear to them that instructed me!"

The key to **avoiding** sexual temptation is to have your own wife.

- **Proverbs 5:15-18:** "Drink waters out of thine own cistern, and running waters out of thine own well. Let thy fountains be dispersed abroad, and rivers of waters in the streets. Let them be only thine own, and not strangers' with thee. Let thy fountain be blessed: and rejoice with the wife of thy youth."

It's possible to **avoid** poverty through hard work. Those who fail to work may quickly find themselves poor.

- **Proverbs 6:10-11:** "Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep: So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth, and thy want as an armed man."

We must **avoid** immoral women.

- **Proverbs 6:24:** "To keep thee from the evil woman, from the flattery of the tongue of a strange woman."

We can **avoid** immoral women by never desiring them in the first place, and by never being taken in by their beauty. We should stop the sin by never having that desire at all.

- **Proverbs 6:25:** "Lust not after her beauty in thine heart; neither let her take thee with her eyelids."

The foolish young person didn't try to **avoid** the immoral woman. Instead he went down the way to her house (which was a terrible mistake).

- **Proverbs 7:8:** "Passing through the street near her corner; and he went the way to her house,"

We must be careful about the paths that we walk down. We must seek to **avoid** evil, sin, and temptation.

- **Proverbs 7:25:** "Let not thine heart decline to her ways, go not astray in her paths."

We must **avoid** taking responsibility for strangers.

- **Proverbs 11:15:** "He that is surety for a stranger shall smart for it; and he that hateth suretiship is sure."

We should **avoid** foolish people.

- **Proverbs 13:20:** "He that walketh with wise men shall be

wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed."

Men should **avoid** marrying foolish women.

- **Proverbs 14:1:** "Every wise woman buildeth her house: but the foolish plucketh it down with her hands."

There's nothing wrong with **avoiding** people on the grounds that they're foolish. In fact, that's what we're commanded to do.

- **Proverbs 14:7:** "Go from the presence of a foolish man, when thou perceivest not in him the lips of knowledge."

We must **avoid** doing foolish things.

- **Proverbs 14:24:** "The crown of the wise is their riches: but the foolishness of fools is folly."

Nations must seek to **avoid** sin. Sin is dangerous to nations.

- **Proverbs 14:34:** "Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people."

Those who are wise will **avoid** bringing shame to those that they serve.

- **Proverbs 14:35:** "The king's favour is toward a wise servant: but his wrath is against him that causeth shame."

In order to **avoid** Hell we need to walk in God's ways.

- **Proverbs 15:24:** "The way of life is above to the wise, that he may depart from hell beneath."

If you seek to **avoid** destruction then don't be proud or arrogant.

- **Proverbs 16:18:** "Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall."

We must **avoid** those who are proud. It's better to be with those who are lowly.

- **Proverbs 16:19:** "Better it is to be of an humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud."

We should seek to **avoid** being around fools who are engaged in foolishness.

- **Proverbs 17:12:** "Let a bear robbed of her whelps meet a man, rather than a fool in his folly."

Taking on financial liability for someone else is a very serious matter. It should be **avoided**.

- **Proverbs 20:16:** "Take his garment that is surety for a stranger: and take a pledge of him for a strange woman."

We must **avoid** those who flatter people.

- **Proverbs 20:19:** "He that goeth about as a talebearer revealeth secrets: therefore meddle not with him that flattereth with his lips."

If you seek to **avoid** trouble then choose your words very carefully.

- **Proverbs 21:23:** "Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue keepeth his soul from troubles."

If you seek to **avoid** death then work, and don't be lazy.

- **Proverbs 21:25:** "The desire of the slothful killeth him; for his hands refuse to labour."

Someone who can't see trouble coming is simple minded. Such people will suffer needlessly because they'll get into trouble that could have been **avoided**.

- **Proverbs 22:3:** "A prudent man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself: but the simple pass on, and are punished."

Those who are contrary and rebellious will have a difficult life. They'll have many problems that could have been **avoided**.

- **Proverbs 22:5:** "Thorns and snares are in the way of the froward: he that doth keep his soul shall be far from them."

We must **avoid** people who are angry or furious.

- **Proverbs 22:24:** "Make no friendship with an angry man; and with a furious man thou shalt not go:"

We need to guard our soul from wickedness. The way to do that is to **avoid** becoming friends with the wicked.

- **Proverbs 22:24-25:** "Make no friendship with an angry man; and with a furious man thou shalt not go: Lest thou learn his ways, and get a snare to thy soul."

We don't have a responsibility to share wisdom with fools who despise wisdom. Instead we're told to **avoid** talking to those kind of fools altogether.

- **Proverbs 23:9:** "Speak not in the ears of a fool: for he will despise the wisdom of thy words."

Sexually immoral women must be **avoided**. They are dangerous.

- **Proverbs 23:26-28:** "My son, give me thine heart, and let thine eyes observe my ways. For a whore is a deep ditch; and a strange woman is a narrow pit. She also lieth in wait as for a prey, and increaseth the transgressors among men."

Drunkards get injuries that are completely **avoidable**.

- **Proverbs 23:29-30:** "Who hath woe? who hath sorrow? who hath contentions? who hath babbling? who hath wounds without cause? who hath redness of eyes? They that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixed wine."

The wicked should be **avoided** as much as possible.

- **Proverbs 24:1:** "Be not thou envious against evil men, neither desire to be with them."

Don't get involved with people who seek change. Those who seek to overthrow the order of things should be **avoided**.

- **Proverbs 24:21:** "My son, fear thou the LORD and the king: and meddle not with them that are given to change:"

We should try to **avoid** being put to shame.

- **Proverbs 25:8:** "Go not forth hastily to strive, lest thou know not what to do in the end thereof, when thy neighbour hath put thee to shame."

We should **avoid** putting our confidence in people who are unfaithful.

- **Proverbs 25:19:** "Confidence in an unfaithful man in time of trouble is like a broken tooth, and a foot out of joint."

It's not true that anger must be **avoided** in all situations. There are some situations where it's needed.

- **Proverbs 25:23:** "The north wind driveth away rain: so doth an angry countenance a backbiting tongue."

If you seek to **avoid** ruin then you must learn self control.

- **Proverbs 25:28:** "He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls."

Since we don't know the future we should **avoid** boasting about it.

- **Proverbs 27:1:** "Boast not thyself of to morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth."

Those who are simple minded suffer from problems that are **avoided** by those who are prudent.

- **Proverbs 27:12:** "A prudent man foreseeeth the evil, and hideth himself; but the simple pass on, and are punished."

If you want to **avoid** bringing shame to your father then keep God's law. Don't join with those who are lawless.

- **Proverbs 28:7:** "Whoso keepeth the law is a wise son: but he that is a companion of riotous men shameth his father."

If you want to **avoid** being poor then be careful about the sort of people you spend time with. Some people will lead you into poverty.

- **Proverbs 28:19:** "He that tilleth his land shall have plenty of bread: but he that followeth after vain persons shall have poverty enough."

If you want to sing and rejoice then **avoid** sin and do what's right. That's the path to rejoicing.

- **Proverbs 29:6:** "In the transgression of an evil man there

is a snare: but the righteous doth sing and rejoice."

There's a time to **avoid** embracing others.

- **Ecclesiastes 3:5:** "A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;"

The way to **avoid** sinning in the house of the Lord is to listen, and be ready to hear what God has to say.

- **Ecclesiastes 5:1:** "Keep thy foot when thou goest to the house of God, and be more ready to hear, than to give the sacrifice of fools: for they consider not that they do evil."

If a person has many blessings but is unable to enjoy them, it would have been better for that person to die while being born. That way their pain would have been **avoided**.

- **Ecclesiastes 6:3:** "If a man beget an hundred children, and live many years, so that the days of his years be many, and his soul be not filled with good, and also that he have no burial; I say, that an untimely birth is better than he."

In the end those who die while they are being born and those who die after living a long life all go to the grave. It's better to never experience the pain of life at all, than to live a long life that's nothing but pain. In the end both die, but one has to go through many years of pain that the other **avoids**.

- **Ecclesiastes 6:6:** "Yea, though he live a thousand years

twice told, yet hath he seen no good: do not all go to one place?"

Mankind is like the rest of the creatures in this world in that mankind labors to fill desires that can't be satisfied, and lives in a world that's full of vanity and frustration. Mankind isn't immune to that frustration and can't **avoid** it.

- **Ecclesiastes 6:11:** "Seeing there be many things that increase vanity, what is man the better?"

No one can find a way to **avoid** death. When the day of our death comes, it will take us.

- **Ecclesiastes 8:8:** "There is no man that hath power over the spirit to retain the spirit; neither hath he power in the day of death: and there is no discharge in that war; neither shall wickedness deliver those that are given to it."

We must not be even a little foolish. We must **avoid** foolishness altogether.

- **Ecclesiastes 10:1:** "Dead flies cause the ointment of the apothecary to send forth a stinking savour: so doth a little folly him that is in reputation for wisdom and honour."

Before God took food and water away from Judah, He warned them that this was going to happen. (This gave the Jews a chance to repent and **avoid** the judgment.)

- **Isaiah 3:1:** "For, behold, the Lord, the LORD of hosts, doth take away from Jerusalem and from Judah the stay and

the staff, the whole stay of bread, and the whole stay of water."

When God cursed Judah, things would become so bad that people would try to **avoid** being made the ruler of the nation.

- **Isaiah 3:7:** "In that day shall he swear, saying, I will not be an healer; for in my house is neither bread nor clothing: make me not a ruler of the people."

In the end times, the rulers of Israel won't seek to defeat the overflowing scourge with God's power. Instead they will decide to **avoid** the problem by making a covenant with Hell.

- **Isaiah 28:15:** "Because ye have said, We have made a covenant with death, and with hell are we at agreement; when the overflowing scourge shall pass through, it shall not come unto us: for we have made lies our refuge, and under falsehood have we hid ourselves:"

Even though end-times Israel is going to make a covenant of lies with Hell to **avoid** the overflowing scourge, when that scourge comes the nation will be trodden down by it.

- **Isaiah 28:18:** "And your covenant with death shall be disannulled, and your agreement with hell shall not stand; when the overflowing scourge shall pass through, then ye shall be trodden down by it."

There are times when God does *not* cause us to **avoid** the danger, but instead keeps us safe as we go through it.

- **Isaiah 43:2:** "When thou passest through the waters, I

will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee."

In order for the Jews to **avoid** God's judgment and remain in Judah, they had to stop oppressing people, stop worshiping idols, stop shedding innocent blood, and thoroughly execute judgment between a man and his neighbor.

- **Jeremiah 7:5-7**: "For if ye thoroughly amend your ways and your doings; if ye thoroughly execute judgment between a man and his neighbour; If ye oppress not the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, and shed not innocent blood in this place, neither walk after other gods to your hurt: Then will I cause you to dwell in this place, in the land that I gave to your fathers, for ever and ever."

In the days of Jeremiah, God said that there was no way for any of the Gentile nations to **avoid** drinking from the cup of His fury. By that point it was too late.

- **Jeremiah 25:28**: "And it shall be, if they refuse to take the cup at thine hand to drink, then shalt thou say unto them, Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Ye shall certainly drink."

In order for the Jews to **avoid** the coming judgment of God, they needed to repent. (They didn't.)

- **Jeremiah 26:13**: "Therefore now amend your ways and your doings, and obey the voice of the LORD your God; and the LORD will repent him of the evil that he hath pronounced against you."

God gave the Moabites a chance to **avoid** the coming judgment by fleeing.

- **Jeremiah 48:28:** "O ye that dwell in Moab, leave the cities, and dwell in the rock, and be like the dove that maketh her nest in the sides of the hole's mouth."

In the days of Ezekiel, there were people in Jerusalem who had sex with a woman while she was was menstruating. (Under the Mosaic Law, women who were menstruating were unclean and had be **avoided**.)

- **Ezekiel 22:10:** "In thee have they discovered their fathers' nakedness: in thee have they humbled her that was set apart for pollution."

We must try to **avoid** errors. Mistakes have to be paid for.

- **Ezekiel 45:20:** "And so thou shalt do the seventh day of the month for every one that erreth, and for him that is simple: so shall ye reconcile the house."

Daniel was extremely careful about sin. He went through a lot of trouble to **avoid** a diet that he believed would defile himself.

- **Daniel 1:11-13:** "Then said Daniel to Melzar, whom the prince of the eunuchs had set over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, Prove thy servants, I beseech thee, ten days; and let them give us pulse to eat, and water to drink. Then let our countenances be looked upon before thee, and the countenance of the children that eat of the

portion of the king's meat: and as thou seest, deal with thy servants."

Daniel preached the truth to the king, but he also told the king what to do to **avoid** this judgment. He preached repentance.

- **Daniel 4:27:** "Wherefore, O king, let my counsel be acceptable unto thee, and break off thy sins by righteousness, and thine iniquities by shewing mercy to the poor; if it may be a lengthening of thy tranquillity."

The Israelites could have **avoided** God's judgment if they had repented of their wickedness.

- **Hosea 2:1-3:** "Say ye unto your brethren, Ammi; and to your sisters, Ruhamah. Plead with your mother, plead: for she is not my wife, neither am I her husband: let her therefore put away her whoredoms out of her sight, and her adulteries from between her breasts; Lest I strip her naked, and set her as in the day that she was born, and make her as a wilderness, and set her like a dry land, and slay her with thirst."

Under the Mosaic Law, it was important for people to **avoid** contact with the dead because that would make them unclean.

- **Haggai 2:13:** "Then said Haggai, If one that is unclean by a dead body touch any of these, shall it be unclean? And the priests answered and said, It shall be unclean."

It's worth paying any price to **avoid** being cast into Hell.

- **Matthew 5:29:** "And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it

out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell."

- **Matthew 5:30:** "And if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell."
- **Matthew 18:8:** "Wherefore if thy hand or thy foot offend thee, cut them off, and cast them from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life halt or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet to be cast into everlasting fire."
- **Matthew 18:9:** "And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire."
- **Mark 9:43:** "And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched:"
- **Mark 9:45:** "And if thy foot offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter halt into life, than having two feet to be cast into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched:"
- **Mark 9:47:** "And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out: it is better for thee to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire:"
- **Luke 12:5:** "But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: Fear him, which after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell; yea, I say unto you, Fear him."

Temptation is something we should **avoid**, not something we should seek.

- **Matthew 6:13:** "And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen."

When Jesus sent out His twelve disciples on a mission trip, He commanded them to **avoid** the cities of the Gentiles and the Samaritans.

- **Matthew 10:5:** "These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not:"

Jesus didn't tell His disciples to **avoid** plucking corn on the Sabbath to keep from having a confrontation with the Pharisees. Instead He allowed them to do it and used that as an opportunity to confront the Pharisees and condemn them.

- **Matthew 12:1-2:** "At that time Jesus went on the sabbath day through the corn; and his disciples were an hungred, and began to pluck the ears of corn and to eat. But when the Pharisees saw it, they said unto him, Behold, thy disciples do that which is not lawful to do upon the sabbath day."

Jesus could have **avoided** healing people on the Sabbath, but He didn't. Instead He publicly healed on the Sabbath in front of people who believed it was wrong, and then used that as an opportunity to correct them.

- **Matthew 12:10-11:** "And, behold, there was a man which

had his hand withered. And they asked him, saying, Is it lawful to heal on the sabbath days? that they might accuse him. And he said unto them, What man shall there be among you, that shall have one sheep, and if it fall into a pit on the sabbath day, will he not lay hold on it, and lift it out?"

- **Luke 13:12-15:** "And when Jesus saw her, he called her to him, and said unto her, Woman, thou art loosed from thine infirmity. And he laid his hands on her: and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God. And the ruler of the synagogue answered with indignation, because that Jesus had healed on the sabbath day, and said unto the people, There are six days in which men ought to work: in them therefore come and be healed, and not on the sabbath day. The Lord then answered him, and said, Thou hypocrite, doth not each one of you on the sabbath loose his ox or his ass from the stall, and lead him away to watering?"
- **Luke 14:2-4:** "And, behold, there was a certain man before him which had the dropsy. And Jesus answering spake unto the lawyers and Pharisees, saying, Is it lawful to heal on the sabbath day? And they held their peace. And he took him, and healed him, and let him go;"
- **John 5:9:** "And immediately the man was made whole, and took up his bed, and walked: and on the same day was the sabbath."

Plants need roots in order to **avoid** withering away.

- **Matthew 13:6:** "And when the sun was up, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away."

The reason Jesus paid taxes was to **avoid** offending the government.

- **Matthew 17:27:** "Notwithstanding, lest we should offend them, go thou to the sea, and cast an hook, and take up the fish that first cometh up; and when thou hast opened his mouth, thou shalt find a piece of money: that take, and give unto them for me and thee."

Jesus didn't try to **avoid** being killed. He went to Jerusalem even though He knew what would happen to Him once He got there.

- **Matthew 20:18:** "Behold, we go up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man shall be betrayed unto the chief priests and unto the scribes, and they shall condemn him to death,"
- **Mark 10:32-34:** "And they were in the way going up to Jerusalem; and Jesus went before them: and they were amazed; and as they followed, they were afraid. And he took again the twelve, and began to tell them what things should happen unto him, Saying, Behold, we go up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man shall be delivered unto the chief priests, and unto the scribes; and they shall condemn him to death, and shall deliver him to the Gentiles: And they shall mock him, and shall scourge him, and shall spit upon him, and shall kill him: and the third day he shall rise again."
- **Luke 9:51:** "And it came to pass, when the time was come that he should be received up, he stedfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem,"
- **Luke 18:31:** "Then he took unto him the twelve, and said

unto them, Behold, we go up to Jerusalem, and all things that are written by the prophets concerning the Son of man shall be accomplished."

Temptation is a bad thing that we need to **avoid**.

- **Matthew 26:41:** "Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."
- **Luke 11:4:** "And forgive us our sins; for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil."

Jesus could have **avoided** being arrested, but He didn't.

- **Matthew 26:53:** "Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels?"

The reason Jesus didn't **avoid** being betrayed, or try to escape His arrest, was to fulfill the Messianic prophecies of the Old Testament.

- **Matthew 26:54:** "But how then shall the scriptures be fulfilled, that thus it must be?"

Jesus didn't **avoid** a confrontation with people who were looking for a reason to accuse Him.

- **Mark 3:1-3:** "And he entered again into the synagogue; and there was a man there which had a withered hand. And they watched him, whether he would heal him on

the sabbath day; that they might accuse him. And he saith unto the man which had the withered hand, Stand forth."

- **Luke 6:8:** "But he knew their thoughts, and said to the man which had the withered hand, Rise up, and stand forth in the midst. And he arose and stood forth."

Herod decided it was more important to keep a promise than to **avoid** putting an innocent man to death.

- **Mark 6:25-26:** "And she came in straightway with haste unto the king, and asked, saying, I will that thou give me by and by in a charger the head of John the Baptist. And the king was exceeding sorry; yet for his oath's sake, and for their sakes which sat with him, he would not reject her."

The Pharisees replaced God's commandment to honor parents with a different system, where people could **avoid** taking care of their parents by claiming an item was "corban" (dedicated to God). This was a wicked thing to do.

- **Mark 7:11:** "But ye say, If a man shall say to his father or mother, It is Corban, that is to say, a gift, by whatsoever thou mightest be profited by me; he shall be free."

There's no way to **avoid** suffering. We will suffer at some point.

- **Mark 9:49:** "For every one shall be salted with fire, and every sacrifice shall be salted with salt."

Jesus prayed that, if it were possible, He might **avoid** the crucifixion.

- **Mark 14:35-36:** "And he went forward a little, and fell on the ground, and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. And he said, Abba, Father, all things are possible unto thee; take away this cup from me: nevertheless not what I will, but what thou wilt."

Although Jesus wanted to **avoid** the crucifixion, He submitted to the will of His Father:

- **Mark 14:36:** "And he said, Abba, Father, all things are possible unto thee; take away this cup from me: nevertheless not what I will, but what thou wilt."

There are times when the only way to **avoid** temptation is to watch and pray.

- **Mark 14:38:** "Watch ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation. The spirit truly is ready, but the flesh is weak."

Mary followed the Mosaic Law regulation that required her to be purified after the birth of Jesus. (According to Leviticus 12, a woman was unclean for 40 days after she gave birth to a son, and must **avoid** touching anything holy until that time was over.)

- **Luke 2:22:** "And when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were accomplished, they brought him to Jerusalem, to present him to the Lord;"

The only way to avoid the wrath of God that's coming upon the world is by repentance.

- **Luke 3:7-8:** "Then said he to the multitude that came forth to be baptized of him, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bring forth therefore fruits worthy of repentance, and begin not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, That God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham."

We must be saved in order to **avoid** the fires of Hell.

- **Luke 3:17:** "Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and will gather the wheat into his garner; but the chaff he will burn with fire unquenchable."

We must **avoid** deliberately doing things that are foolish and dangerous simply to prove that God will protect us.

- **Luke 4:9-12:** "And he brought him to Jerusalem, and set him on a pinnacle of the temple, and said unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down from hence: For it is written, He shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee: And in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone. And Jesus answering said unto him, It is said, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God."

Jesus didn't **avoid** sinners. Instead He ate with them, ministered to them, and taught them.

- **Luke 5:30-31:** "But their scribes and Pharisees murmured against his disciples, saying, Why do ye eat and drink with publicans and sinners? And Jesus answering said unto them, They that are whole need not a physician; but they that are sick."

Blind people are at risk of falling into the ditch because they can't see it to **avoid** it.

- **Luke 6:39:** "And he spake a parable unto them, Can the blind lead the blind? shall they not both fall into the ditch?"

It wasn't wrong for John the Baptist to **avoid** eating bread and drinking wine.

- **Luke 7:33:** "For John the Baptist came neither eating bread nor drinking wine; and ye say, He hath a devil."

Jesus didn't seek to **avoid** having confrontations with people.

- **Luke 11:38-40:** "And when the Pharisee saw it, he marvelled that he had not first washed before dinner. And the Lord said unto him, Now do ye Pharisees make clean the outside of the cup and the platter; but your inward part is full of ravening and wickedness. Ye fools, did not he that made that which is without make that which is within also?"

Jesus didn't **avoid** rebuking someone's sin, even when He was an invited guest in their home.

- **Luke 11:37-39:** "And as he spake, a certain Pharisee

besought him to dine with him: and he went in, and sat down to meat. And when the Pharisee saw it, he marvelled that he had not first washed before dinner. And the Lord said unto him, Now do ye Pharisees make clean the outside of the cup and the platter; but your inward part is full of ravening and wickedness."

Jesus had to suffer and die. That couldn't be **avoided**.

- **Luke 12:50**: "But I have a baptism to be baptized with; and how am I straitened till it be accomplished!"

When some Pharisees told Jesus that Herod was going to kill Him, Jesus referred to His crucifixion and resurrection on the third day. Jesus knew that He was going to die and He didn't flee or try to **avoid** it.

- **Luke 13:32**: "And he said unto them, Go ye, and tell that fox, Behold, I cast out devils, and I do cures to day and to morrow, and the third day I shall be perfected."

Although many people have been invited into the kingdom of God, people make all sorts of excuses to **avoid** going into the kingdom.

- **Luke 14:18**: "And they all with one consent began to make excuse. The first said unto him, I have bought a piece of ground, and I must needs go and see it: I pray thee have me excused."

The scribes and Pharisees didn't care about sinners. They **avoided** them.

- **Luke 15:2:** "And the Pharisees and scribes murmured, saying, This man receiveth sinners, and eateth with them."

We must **avoid** those who claim to be Jesus because they're false Messiahs. (When the real Jesus does return He won't be hidden.)

- **Luke 21:8:** "And he said, Take heed that ye be not deceived: for many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and the time draweth near: go ye not therefore after them."

The way the disciples could **avoid** meditating on what they would say in advance (when they were arrested and taken before a judge) was by settling the matter in their hearts.

- **Luke 21:14-15:** "Settle it therefore in your hearts, not to meditate before what ye shall answer: For I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which all your adversaries shall not be able to gainsay nor resist."

One of the ways we can **avoid** temptation is through prayer.

- **Luke 22:40:** "And when he was at the place, he said unto them, Pray that ye enter not into temptation."
- **Luke 22:46:** "And said unto them, Why sleep ye? rise and pray, lest ye enter into temptation."

Those who haven't heard the gospel will face God's wrath, because the only way to **avoid** His wrath is by believing in Jesus.

- **John 3:36:** "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him."

Jesus didn't try to **avoid** confrontations with the Jews. Instead He told them the truth about Himself, even though He knew it would anger them.

- **John 5:17-18:** "But Jesus answered them, My Father worketh hitherto, and I work. Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God."

When Jesus healed the man who had been born blind, He deliberately chose to do it on the Sabbath day. He did this even though the religious leaders of the Jews were already trying to kill Him for healing people on the Sabbath. Instead of **avoiding** a confrontation He continued to heal on the Sabbath.

- **John 9:14:** "And it was the sabbath day when Jesus made the clay, and opened his eyes."

If we want to **avoid** stumbling then we must walk in the light.

- **John 11:9:** "Jesus answered, Are there not twelve hours in the day? If any man walk in the day, he stumbleth not, because he seeth the light of this world."

The Jews believed that Gentiles should be **avoided** altogether.

- **Acts 11:3:** "Saying, Thou wentest in to men uncircumcised, and didst eat with them."

Paul tried to **avoid** being killed by the Jews.

- **Acts 20:3:** "And there abode three months. And when the Jews laid wait for him, as he was about to sail into Syria, he purposed to return through Macedonia."

Paul's suffering in Jerusalem, and subsequent imprisonment, was completely **avoidable**. Sometimes people suffer because of their own foolishness and stubbornness. The problem was entirely avoidable but they refused to listen.

- **Acts 21:4:** "And finding disciples, we tarried there seven days: who said to Paul through the Spirit, that he should not go up to Jerusalem."
- **Acts 21:11:** "And when he was come unto us, he took Paul's girdle, and bound his own hands and feet, and said, Thus saith the Holy Ghost, So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man that owneth this girdle, and shall deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles."

Everything that God told Paul was going to happen to him if he went to Jerusalem happened. All of it was **avoidable** if Paul had just listened to the Holy Spirit, but he didn't.

- **Acts 21:30:** "And all the city was moved, and the people ran together: and they took Paul, and drew him out of the temple: and forthwith the doors were shut."

Tertullus claimed that the reason he was going to keep his case against Paul short was to **avoid** being tedious to the governor.

- **Acts 24:4:** "Notwithstanding, that I be not further tedious unto thee, I pray thee that thou wouldest hear us of thy clemency a few words."

If we want to **avoid** God's wrath then we must repent. Those who harden their heart will face His wrath.

- **Romans 2:5:** "But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God;"

Even though God gives His abundant grace where sin abounds, we must still seek to **avoid** sin. God's grace doesn't give us a license to sin, or justify sin.

- **Romans 6:2:** "God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?"

We must submit to the government in order to **avoid** the wrath of God.

- **Romans 13:5:** "Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake."

Paul didn't want to preach the gospel in places where the gospel had already been preached. He sought to **avoid** those places.

- **Romans 15:20:** "Yea, so have I strived to preach the gospel, not where Christ was named, lest I should build upon another man's foundation:"

People who cause divisions by bringing false doctrines into the church are destructive and must be **avoided**.

- **Romans 16:17:** "Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them."

If someone brings a false doctrine into the church, the person who must be **avoided** is the one who brought in the false doctrine, not the people who are fighting against it.

- **Romans 16:17:** "Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them."

We must compare what we hear to God's commandments so that we can recognize and **avoid** sinful practices.

- **Romans 16:17:** "Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them."

We don't need to have a deep knowledge of evil. It's enough to have discernment so we can recognize evil and **avoid** it.

- **Romans 16:19:** "For your obedience is come abroad unto all men. I am glad therefore on your behalf: but yet I would have you wise unto that which is good, and simple concerning evil."

It's not good for our life's work to be burned with fire and lost, and for us to not receive a reward from God. That's a terrible outcome that we must strive to **avoid**.

- **1 Corinthians 3:15:** "If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire."

It's not our place to judge others. God will judge them in due time. (That being said, Paul *does* teach that we must **avoid** heretics, and we must remove from the church those who are living in unrepentant sin. We're not allowed to ignore people's sin.)

- **1 Corinthians 4:5:** "Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God."

The sinful people who Christians must take great care to **avoid** are Christians that are living in sin, *not* sinful pagans.

- **1 Corinthians 5:10-11:** "Yet not altogether with the fornicators of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or with idolaters; for then must ye needs go out of the world. But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolator, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat."

We must **avoid** Christians who are sexually immoral, or covetous, or idolaters, or quick to anger, or drunkards, or extortioners.

- **1 Corinthians 5:11:** "But now I have written unto you not

to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat."

The reason the apostle Paul recommended that people should get married wasn't because of love or romance. Instead it was to **avoid** sexual sin.

- **1 Corinthians 7:2:** "Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband."

When the Corinthian church wrote to Paul about marriage, he told them that being single was an easier life. However, because sexual temptation was so serious he taught that people should get married and have regular sex with their spouse in order to **avoid** sexual temptation. He also taught that sex was so important that people should limit the time they spend fasting and prayer, and come together again, so that they didn't fall into temptation. That's what he wanted the church to teach.

- **1 Corinthians 7:5:** "Defraud ye not one the other, except it be with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency."

The reason Paul told a suffering and persecuted church to **avoid** marriage was because getting married makes your life harder, and the Corinthian church was already suffering enough. Paul was trying to spare them from additional suffering.

- **1 Corinthians 7:28:** "But and if thou marry, thou hast not sinned; and if a virgin marry, she hath not sinned. Nevertheless such shall have trouble in the flesh: but I spare you."

Those who claim that **avoiding** eating certain foods makes them a better person are wrong.

- **1 Corinthians 8:8:** "But meat commendeth us not to God: for neither, if we eat, are we the better; neither, if we eat not, are we the worse."

Preaching the gospel at our own expense helps us **avoid** the temptation to abuse our power. It removes certain temptations from us.

- **1 Corinthians 9:18:** "What is my reward then? Verily that, when I preach the gospel, I may make the gospel of Christ without charge, that I abuse not my power in the gospel."

There's no way to entirely **avoid** facing temptation. (That being said, we should do everything in our power to stay as far away from temptation as possible.)

- **1 Corinthians 10:13:** "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it."

Even if something is lawful and isn't a sin, that doesn't mean it's a good idea or that we should do it. It's possible for

something to not be a sin and yet still be something we must **avoid**.

- **1 Corinthians 10:23:** "All things are lawful for me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but all things edify not."

If you seek to **avoid** being judged by God then learn to judge yourself and hold yourself accountable.

- **1 Corinthians 11:31:** "For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged."

There are some things which are good topics for Christians to pursue, but there are others we must **avoid**.

- **1 Corinthians 14:20:** "Brethren, be not children in understanding: howbeit in malice be ye children, but in understanding be men."

It's not just fine to keep on sinning. Wickedness is something we must **avoid**.

- **1 Corinthians 15:34:** "Awake to righteousness, and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak this to your shame."

Preachers and teachers should seek to **avoid** talking about themselves, and should instead focus on the Scriptures.

- **2 Corinthians 3:1:** "Do we begin again to commend ourselves? or need we, as some others, epistles of commendation to you, or letters of commendation from

you?"

God will receive us if we separate ourselves from the world and **avoid** that which is unclean (morally impure).

- **2 Corinthians 6:17:** "Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you."

Paul was afraid that if he publicly preached the gospel to people of reputation, that would mean he had run in vain. (Paul was trying to **avoid** pride.)

- **Galatians 2:2:** "And I went up by revelation, and communicated unto them that gospel which I preach among the Gentiles, but privately to them which were of reputation, lest by any means I should run, or had run, in vain."

The reason some people were teaching salvation by circumcision was to **avoid** persecution. (However, this approach led to Hell.)

- **Galatians 6:12:** "As many as desire to make a fair shew in the flesh, they constrain you to be circumcised; only lest they should suffer persecution for the cross of Christ."

Christians must **avoid** having disputes with one another. The way to do this is to all be of one mind, *not* by compromise and pragmatism.

- **Philippians 2:14:** "Do all things without murmurings and disputings:"

Paul frequently referred to the return of Christ at the rapture. He didn't **avoid** the subject of the end times.

- **Philippians 2:16:** "Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain."

Christians must **avoid** all forms of sexual sin. We must put to death the lusts of the flesh.

- **Colossians 3:5:** "Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:"

It's good to seek to **avoid** being a burden to the church.

- **1 Thessalonians 2:6:** "Nor of men sought we glory, neither of you, nor yet of others, when we might have been burdensome, as the apostles of Christ."

Paul believed there was great value in teaching end-times prophecy. He didn't **avoid** that subject or claim that it had no merit.

- **2 Thessalonians 2:3-5:** "Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God. Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I

told you these things?"

One day the antichrist will rise to power. It can't be **avoided**.

- **2 Thessalonians 2:6:** "And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time."

Paul taught that to **avoid** the temptations that arise from being idols, younger women should marry and have children and take care of their own household.

- **1 Timothy 5:12-14:** "Having damnation, because they have cast off their first faith. And withal they learn to be idle, wandering about from house to house; and not only idle, but tattlers also and busybodies, speaking things which they ought not. I will therefore that the younger women marry, bear children, guide the house, give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully."

Some people use false science to attack the Scriptures. Churches must **avoid** this.

- **1 Timothy 6:20:** "O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called:"

Some people use vain or profane things to attack the Scriptures. Churches must **avoid** this.

- **1 Timothy 6:20:** "O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called:"

We must **avoid** asking foolish questions.

- **2 Timothy 2:23:** "But foolish and unlearned questions avoid, knowing that they do gender strifes."
- **Titus 3:9:** "But avoid foolish questions, and genealogies, and contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and vain."

Paul painted a very bleak picture of what people would be like at the end of the church age, in the end times. He told Christians to **avoid** such terrible and depraved individuals.

- **2 Timothy 3:1-5:** "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away."

The church must **avoid** things that are unprofitable and vain.

- **Titus 3:9:** "But avoid foolish questions, and genealogies, and contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and vain."

One day we can **avoid** sin is by exhorting one another daily.

- **Hebrews 3:13:** "But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the

deceitfulness of sin."

James taught that Christians should try to **avoid** holding positions of authority over people, because doing so will lead to condemnation.

- **James 3:1:** "My brethren, be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation."

Peter didn't teach that Christians should find ways to compromise in order to **avoid** persecution. Instead he said that we shouldn't be afraid, and should find happiness in suffering for the sake of righteousness.

- **1 Peter 3:14:** "But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy are ye: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled;"

Temptation is something we should **avoid**, not something we should embrace.

- **2 Peter 2:9:** "The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:"

If we want to protect ourselves from the devil then we must **avoid** sin.

- **1 John 5:18:** "We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not."

Christians must keep away from idols. Idols are something that we must **avoid** and have nothing to do with.

- **1 John 5:21:** "Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen."

None of the wicked are too great or too small to **avoid** the judgment of God.

- **Revelation 20:12:** "And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works."