

## Olympic Mountain Rescue



A young couple drove their SUV up the winding road to Hurricane Ridge in the Olympic National Park for a day of snow skiing. The night before several inches of snow had fallen in the mountains. A road crew had worked hard in the early morning hours to clear the route to the ski run.

At an elevation of a few thousand feet they drove through a long dimly lit tunnel that had been drilled through the solid rock of the mountain. After exiting the tunnel the road had a dip and a bend in it. They were driving along when the unthinkable took place. The SUV hit a patch of ice and began sliding towards the edge of the steep mountain. The driver stepped on the anti-lock brakes and turned the steering wheel hard to one side but nothing he tried was able to stop the vehicles slide on the ice. They watched wide-eyed with horror as the distance, foot by foot, disappeared between them and the edge of the mountain.

The car hit the low bank of snow on the narrow shoulder of the road. With a frightening lurch the front wheels drove off into the space over the edge of the mountain, and the chassis landed with a thud and then scraped to a rest on the shoulder of the road. The vehicle came to a halt, part on the road, and part suspended in space over the mountainside.

Thoughts flashed through the minds of both persons inside the car of unfastening their seatbelts and leaping clear of the vehicle. But when the car slipped forward a little, such thoughts were quickly forgotten. They were too scared to move. The slightest movement might upset the delicate balance and send them careening down the mountain. The pair with death staring them in the face was in desperate situation.

You, too, if you have not been saved from your sins, are in a situation every bit as desperate as theirs. Death, the **king of terrors** as it is called in the book of Job, is certainly lurking somewhere in your future. At best, life is very brief, while in eternity death is forever. If you don't know the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior, no matter how comfortable your earthly situation is, you are tottering on the brink of disaster!

God whose unalterable nature is holy, just, and good, must hold every person accountable for the sins they have committed. **It is appointed unto men once to die and after this the judgment.** He will not judge sin the same way men do. He will not trivialize it. He will not excuse it as normal or natural. It is his nature to utterly abhor sin. One sin is enough to

sink a sinner into hell for all eternity. **It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God**, is a warning from Gods word that ought to solemnize the hardest of sinners.

His wrath hangs over every person who refuses to turn away from their sin, and to believe on the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. If they die without that all important change of heart and mind, towards the Lord Jesus, they will suffer Gods wrath forever. **These shall go away into everlasting punishment**, is a plain statement the Lord Jesus made in reference to those who pass out of this world without ever coming to repentance towards God. Repentance is a whole hearted change towards sin and God. It is a turning away from the sin we once loved, and a turning to God whose love and grace we had once spurned.

Gods desire is for all souls to come to him, and to receive the salvation he freely offers. **God is not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance**. The good news of the gospel presents what Christ has done in the day of grace so that men may not have to face him in the judgment. It tells of a wonderful Savior who passed through the unfathomable suffering of Calvarys cross so that sinners might be saved. **Christ has also once suffered for sin, the just for the unjust that he might bring us to God**.

For six long hours the Lord Jesus was nailed to the cross. In the first three hours he suffered cruelly from the hands of men. During the second half of that time the sky was darkened as the sun refused to give its light, and the Lord Jesus became the one and only sin-bearer this world will ever know. Gods wrath in an overpowering flood fell on his beloved Son. The wrath which might have sunk the entire world into hell instead fell on his spotless soul. **My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me**, was his heart wrenching cry when **he who knew no sin became sin for us**.

Because he gave his life for sinners on the cross, sinners who deserve death and hell can find life by believing on his name. **But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name**.

You, who are in danger of passing out of this world and into a lost eternity, will you not stop, and consider what Christ has done to save your soul? Does his suffering on the cross mean nothing to you? Will Gods warnings about the awfulness of sin and eternal punishment, fall on deaf ears in your case? Will the vanities and pleasures of this world so fill your heart so that there will be no place in it for a Savior who died and rose again? You, who are tottering on the brink, must you fall into the depths of hell because of your own stubbornness and hard heartedness?

Some people might like think God couldnt possibly make souls to suffer for all eternity in a place called hell. In a certain sense they are right. God isnt making people go to hell.

People make themselves go to that awful place **where the worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched**, by their rejection of the Lord Jesus Christ and his offer of salvation. Souls who reject Christ will doubtless suffer for eternity, and they will have only themselves to blame for all their miseries.

The most miserable day spent on earth will seem like paradise when compared to the best day in hell. All your wisdom, intelligence, education, and charm will not keep you from falling into hell if you dont repent and come to the Savior.

There is no hope outside the Savior for sinners. There is no way to succeed in escaping hell

and entering into heaven without the Lord Jesus Christ. You might have experienced all kinds of success while on earth. You might have the job of your dreams, a family that is the envy of your neighbors, and achieved wealth and fame but without Christ you will be lost forever. Since you have sinned - **All have sinned and come short of the glory of God,** you are tottering on the brink of a lost eternity. At any moment that awful slide forward might begin and your precious soul will be lost forever. The time to receive Christ is now when you can be certain it may be done. **Behold now is the accepted time; now is the day of salvation.**

The SUV hung on the cliff for a few precarious seconds while the two inside were not sure what would happen to them. Then it slipped forward over the edge. Falling, it somersaulted end over end, and rolled over several times, smashing against rocks and trees. The glass windows smashed into thousands of little pieces and flew by their faces. The roof and sides of the vehicle were bashed over and over again, jolting their bodies terrifically. The occupants would have been thrown from the vehicle and crushed if it had not been for their seatbelts. The car tumbled nearly 450 feet down the steep mountain before the roof of the car got wedged in between two big trees. The two remained trapped in the car for nearly two hours on a mountainside too steep to climb without ropes, before a passerby noticed the skid marks on the shoulder of the road and stopped to investigate. At first he didn't see the car so he called out, Is anyone down there?