

**Introduction**

1. Bible writers admit their own sins
2. Exx. Moses, Joshua, David...
3. Running from God: a common fault

**1. WHY PEOPLE RUN AWAY FROM GOD**

- 1) Some drift from the church BC or SS – then they lose interest.
- 2) Some are misled by friends  
**ILLUSTRATION:** John Newton's experience
- 3) Some think the Bible too "personal"  
Some hold God at arm's length
- 4) Most want a "good time". This is so common.  
**APPLICATION:** Never influence anyone away from God: "If you will not come to heaven..."

**2. THOSE WHO RUN AWAY WILL SUFFER**

\* See Jonah here: all went well at first

- 1) Some lose all heart for God's word  
**ILLUSTRATION:** a young woman in Glasgow
- 2) Some lose a loved one  
**ILLUSTRATION:** McCheyne; Chalmers  
**APPLICATION:** Ask David, who had sinned
- 3) Some lose their earthly goods  
**ILLUSTRATION:** King Saul. What a warning!
- 4) Some lose their soul  
**ILLUSTRATION:** The sad case of Judas Iscariot  
"The backslider in heart..."

**3. GOD HAS MEANS TO BRING THEM BACK**

\* Make up your mind never to do it  
BUT, God may, still be gracious:

- 1) God may bring us to our wits' end  
**ILLUSTRATION:** The Prodigal Son
- 2) The Bible may suddenly speak  
**ILLUSTRATION:** Bilney to Latimer
- 3) God may bring a witness to us  
**ILLUSTRATION:** Old man of 92 in the Orkneys

**CONCLUSION**

Look at Jonah's unique experience. The way to escape from our angry God is – to run into His arms.

**ILLUSTRATION:** The Prodigal Son  
"Come unto me..."

**PSALM**

**139: 1 – 10**

**37: 35 – 40**

**139: 19 - 24**