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## **“THE UNAVOIDABLES OF LIFE”**

Romans 8:28-39

Dr. John A. Wells

Words! They carry meaning, symbols, and messages. They can be very powerful. I started thinking this week about the word “*inevitable*.” It means inescapable, unavoidable, unpreventable, predetermined - in other words, out of our control. “*Inevitable*” is one of those words that can cause fear or uneasiness when spoken. Sometimes it can feel like the word “terminal” as in cancer or some other disease. It can carry a sense of hopelessness, of finality, of no way out. It is not a word we often use in a happy or pleasant setting.

We have all heard the saying that the “only certainties in life are death and taxes.” When I was in the military, we used to say that retirement was a divorce waiting to happen. Change is inevitable. There are a lot of problems spoken on the news and written in the newspapers on a daily basis. How quickly life and health can come and go. There is a book of the Bible called Ecclesiastes. It is a very interesting book that discusses what is inevitable or inescapable in life.

There is a good and exciting side, though, to the word “*inevitable*.” God is “*inevitable*.” I would like you to dwell on this thought a moment. We cannot avoid God any more than God can avoid us. At some point, between the beginning of life and the end of life, it is “*inevitable*” that we encounter God. The possible stumbling block in this unavoidable encounter is what we believe about God. If, in our *mind*, God is a fearful or unreachable Being, we will go to great lengths to avoid the unavoidable. If He is a forgiving and loving God, we will go to great lengths to encounter Him as quickly as possible. The great thing, though, is God created us. Thus, He created our *spirits* to be joyful at encountering Him. Since He is part of us, He also must encounter us just as we must encounter Him. It is “*inevitable*.”

“*Inevitable*” can carry a special and joyous thought in this particular context. For you see, if God is unavoidable, that means love, light, forgiveness, justice, peace, joy, grace, and life eternal are “*inevitable*.” *At some point, between the beginning of life and the end of life, all of who God is and what He does will encounter us.* It may or may not be our choice when it happens, but we can choose to be receptive to all that God is and does. The Apostle Paul was one of those who did not choose when. But afterwards he says in Romans 8:31 “What shall we say to this? If God is for us, who is against us?” What a great message to tuck away in our minds and hearts. Have a great week and give some thought to the “*Inevitable God*.”