

## WHAT IT MEANS TO BE LOST

S.R. (Eph. 1:3 – 7)

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Intro.

- A. I recently received a call from a brother who had re-evaluated his relationship with God and feared an eternal separation with God due to past conduct. He was in his 70's.
- B. Few people give serious thought to the idea of being lost in hell.
  - 1. "Preaching which exposes sin and highlights God's grace are not mutually exclusive, but in God's plan they fit together. God's grace is not so amazing if our sin is not so destructive."
  - 2. What does it mean to be lost--in terms of time and eternity?
- C. The word of the Lord certainly teaches the possibility of my being lost and the certainty of hell.
  - 1. Near the close of the sermon on the mount, Jesus said, (Matt. 7:13-14.)
  - 2. Read what Jesus said in (Mt. 25:31 - 46).
    - a. Jesus believes in Heaven and Hell and says people will spend eternity in one of those two places based on their response to Him.
    - b. What does being lost look like according to Scripture?

### I. SEPARATED FROM GOD

- A. The lost person is separated from God in this life.
  - 1. **(Isa. 59:1-2)** "59:1 Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, That it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, That it cannot hear. 2 But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear."
  - 2. God's answer to sin was in the person of Christ, who through the shedding of His blood made possible the removal of sin and thus the reconciliation of man to God. **(2 Cor. 5:19-21)**
  - 3. But separation from God in this life is not worthy to be compared to eternal separation from God. **(2 Thess. 1:6-9) eternal destruction**
- B. "You believe, do you not that there is a hell into which men's spirits are cast?"

### II. SERVANT OF SIN

- A. The person who is lost is one who **serves sin**, as Paul notes in **(Rom. 6:16-19)**.
  - 1. He serves sin through his obedience to sin as he yields his members (parts of his body) as servants to serve self and Satan.
  - 2. Would it not be tragic to survey an entire life spent in the service of sin, when at the judgment we would like to consider ourselves as the servants of God?
  - 3. But the person who obeys sin is sure to be lost if he does not repent, for he has chosen the wrong master.
  - 4. We cannot serve two masters; and to attempt such is to neglect the Lord and serve the devil. (Mt. 6:24)
  - 5. Let each of us examine himself to determine whom he is serving. (2 Cor. 13:5)  
"Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?; unless indeed you are disqualified."

### III. YOU FORFEIT THE VALUE OF CHRIST'S DEATH ON YOUR BEHALF

- A. To the lost individual the death of Christ means nothing.
  - 1. As far as you are personally is concerned, Jesus' death was useless--because it means Little to you.
  - 2. You have not benefited; therefore, according to Jesus, you are still lost.
  - 3. This is the person who counts the blood of Christ an unholy (common, light) thing. **(Heb. 10:29)** "Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace?"
- B. Since she places no special value on the blood of the cross, she makes no attempt to obtain its benefits ( **Jn. 14:6**).
- C. Being lost also means that a person has forfeited every blessing of a spiritual nature.
  - 1. All spiritual blessings are found in Christ (Eph. 1:3), and if you are not in Christ you have no hope of enjoying them. (Eph. 2:12) "without hope and without God"
  - 2. All of the lost are outside of Christ either by failing to enter or failing to abide in him.
  - 3. The elect of God, receive redemption and acceptance in Christ (Eph. 1:3-8a)
  - 4. These spiritual blessings are contingent upon our remaining true (Acts 11:23) and holding fast to Christ (Heb. 3:6-14).
  - 5. Are you holding fast to the Head, even Christ? **(Col.2:18-19)**

### IV. WORDS OF SALVATION ARE REJECTED

- A. When we reject Christ's words, we reject Christ **(Jn. 12:48)**.
  - 1. The lost person whom Jesus described in this verse rejects the very word by which judgment will be rendered.
  - 2. He abandons all hope of salvation that the Lord has offered to any person.
  - 3. The only hope of the Christian in the judgment is Christ, whose blood cleanses those who are walking in the light.
  - 4. But the only way we can possibly know how to live and to walk in the light is the word of light. **(Psa.119:105.) "Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path."**
- B. When we reject God's word, we reject Him and abandon hope. **(Heb. 4:14-16; 6:4-6)**

### V. Conclusion:

- A. Being lost as one goes through this life means:
  - 1. Separation from God,
  - 2. Service to sin,
  - 3. Christ's death in vain – having forfeited "all spiritual blessings"
  - 4. Rejection of the word of salvation
- B. As far as eternity is concerned, being lost spells eternal condemnation.
  - 1. The punishment of the lost is not pleasant to consider.
  - 2. Will you then not heed the warning and obey the Lord (Mk. 16:16).