



What Does It Mean To Be Lost?

TEXT: Luke 19:10

I. EVERY INDIVIDUAL BORN INTO THIS WORLD INHERITS

THE FALLEN NATURE OF ADAM

This is called the doctrine of total depravity. This doctrine is not understood by man. It means that people are depraved in that they can do nothing which is acceptable unto God. This condition described by the words, "dead in trespasses and sins," is that the spirit and soul of man are separated from God and are helpless to return to God. The Bible is emphatic when stating the truth that the unsaved, left to their own volition, will not turn to God.

II. MEN ARE DEATHBOUND BECAUSE OF SIN

Here again the individual is not responsible. The Bible gives just one reason for this "deathbound." It is because of the sin of Adam. It must

be discerned that the judgment of death which fell upon Adam and his

posterity is not physical death alone; it included both spiritual death and the "second" death.

III. JUDGMENT RESTS NOW UPON MEN

This is because God has made a decree which reaches to all men of this age. This decree declares that all unsaved people are "under sin." It

is not difficult to see that to be under sin is a specific judgment from God which is peculiar to the present age; for in no other age has it ever been true that "there is no difference between Jew and Gentile."

IV. MEN ARE LOST BECAUSE OF SINS THEY HAVE COMMITTED

Scriptures declare that all have sinned, none are righteous. The first sin of Adam was an indifference to the demands of God. There's a vast difference between God's conception of sin and man's. He forgives and justifies.

V. MEN ARE LOST BECAUSE THEY ARE IN THE POWER OF SATAN

Not only is salvation of such a supernatural character that no human being could ever hope to accomplish it for himself all that enters in his lost condition can be remedied by God alone. God can undertake the salvation of a soul. He is rendered free to do so through the death of Christ for that soul.

Choosing The Wrong

TEXT: Matthew 19:22

INTRODUCTION: Man is a free agent, he may choose either bad or good.

his youth chose the worst.

I. THE RICH YOUNG RULER'S CHOICE.

1. He was a nice, clean-cut gentlemen- (Matthew 19: 18,20).

2. He made an effort to accept Christ.
3. The price was too great.
4. He turned away from Christ, thus choosing riches and sin.
5. We have no record of him ever coming again to Christ.

II. CHOICE OFFERED AT THE TRIAL OF CHRIST - Matthew 27:16-22

1. It was customary for the governor to release one prisoner of the Jews' choice on each feast day.
2. They had their minds made up in evil.
3. They made the evil choice of Barabbas (v.20).
4. They chose crucifixion for Christ. (v.22).
5. The choice of anything instead of Christ is poor.
6. What stands between you and Christ today?

III. FELIX MAKES A BAD CHOICE - Acts 24:25

1. Paul brought the Gospel to him.
2. Felix was moved by the power of the Gospel
3. He must now make a choice for or against.
4. He chose to accept at a more convenient time.
5. You are about to decide with the man who made a bad choice.

IV. AGRIPPA ALMOST PERSUADED TO THE RIGHT - Acts 26:28

1. He was moved by the Gospel
2. He must make a decision.
3. He almost made the right choice but failed.
4. Almost will not prevail.
5. As far as we know this was his final decision.
6. You will make your last decision someday.

Putting Christ Last

TEXT: Luke 9:59,61

INTRODUCTION: The Church and world too often put Christ last.

I. CHRIST SAID TO A MAN, "FOLLOW ME"

1. The man made no special objections.
2. He seemed to be willing.
3. But he wanted to bury his father first.

II. ANOTHER SAID, "I WILL FOLLOW THEE"

1. He seemed to be anxious.
2. His statement was volunteered.
3. His home folks came before Christ.
4. He would follow Christ if he could let his people come first.

III. CHURCH MEMBERS OFTEN PUT HIM LAST

1. I will do this for my people, and then for the Church.
2. I will pay for my car and then pay tithes.
3. After I get out of debt I will help some then.
4. When I get more time I want to pray more.
5. I would like to attend church but have so much to do.
6. You have put Christ last.

IV. SINNERS PUT CHRIST LAST

1. I am young and have plenty of time.
2. Would like to enjoy the pleasures of sin a while longer.
3. Would like to make more money before I start.
4. I fear what my friends would say about me.

V. THOSE WHO HAVE PUT CHRIST LAST

1. Are not fit for the kingdom of God (Luke 9:62)
2. How would you like to meet Him in judgment after you have put him last? He will put you last.
3. God is a jealous God (Exodus 20:5). He must be first.

Conclusion: Put the one first, you love best. That is the way your love is measured. How much do you love God?

Why People Refuse The Lord

Text: Jeremiah 5:3

I. WHO HAVE REFUSED TO RETURN?

1. Those who have said as much. With unusual honesty or presumption, they have made public declaration that they will never quit their sinful ways.
2. Those who have made a promise to repent, but have not performed it.
3. Those who have offered other things instead of practical return to God: ceremonies, religiousness, morality, and the like.
4. Those who have only returned in appearance. Formalists, mere professors, and hypocrites.

II. WHAT THIS REFUSAL UNVEILS

1. An intense love of sin.
2. A want of love to the great Father, Who bids them return.
3. A despising of God: they reject His counsel, His command, and even Himself.
4. A resolve to continue in evil. This is their proud ultimatum, "They have refused to return."
5. A trifling with serious concerns. They are too busy, fond of fun, etc. There is time enough yet.

III. WHAT IS THE REAL REASON OF THIS REFUSAL?

1. It may be self-conceit: perhaps they dream that they are already on the right road.
2. It is at times sheer recklessness. The man refuses to consider his own best interest. He resolves to be a trifler; death and hell and heaven are to him as toys to sport with.
3. It is a dislike of holiness. That lies at the bottom of it: men cannot endure humility , self-denial , and obedience to God.
4. It is a preference for the present above the eternal future. From the cross the Lord Jesus calls you on to return. Hasten home! The door of heaven shuts from below, not from above.