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East Columbus Bulletin

How To Be Lost

“Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through time.” (Rom. 5:9 KJV)

This essay is backwards – we should actually be talking about being saved from God’s wrath. But maybe the backwards approach will help folks see the desperate situation of sinners and the factors necessary to be brought to a safe condition before God.

Stay away from Gospel Preaching. The gospel is designed by God to bring salvation to hearers. *“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone who believes...” (Rom 1:16)* As with a vaccine for disease, if a person is never brought to the gospel, he cannot be saved.

The gospel message brings belief in Christ, that Christ is the Son of God, that He died for our sins, and that He was raised from the dead. (1 Cor. 15:1-3) But if people never hear, they will surely be lost.

“For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?” (Rom. 10:13-14)

So, those who stay away from preaching – from Bible classes, from Bible reading, from Bible discussion – are doing the thing we are talking about here; they are traveling the road to damnation.

The preacher once arranged to study with a young man in his home, but the wife declined, going about her business. After several sessions, the preacher, having gone into the gospel enough for the young man to know the truth, asked, “Aren’t you ready to be baptized?” He explained that he wasn’t quite ready to obey the gospel when his wife

Times of Services

Sunday

10:00 a.m. Worship only

Wednesday

7:00 p.m. Bible Study

Study and Worship Opportunities

Due to Covid concerns, services and classes are limited to Sunday morning and Wednesday evening.

News and Notes

- **Home Bound Members:** Mike Butler, Willena Woods.
- **Prayer Requests:** Frank Butler, Jim Paschall, Sara Williams, Mike Lavender, Elbert Logan, Benny Parker, Doug and Pat Wheeler.
- **Others to Remember:** Steve Coburn, Wade McCrary, Jim Ratcliff, Jerry Paschall, Elbert Logan, Mike & Marion Butler, Lee Gallop. Willena Woods is at Windsor Place Room 205.
- **Sick:** Allen & Carolyn Jones’ daughter-in-law Leisha is undergoing post stroke therapy in Columbus. Mike Lavender’s hip surgery has been postponed again and is scheduled for January. Benny Parker is recovering from foot surgery and is undergoing physical therapy. Both of Kim Solomon’s grandmothers are experiencing serious health problems. Doug Wheeler will be undergoing radiation treatments for lymphatic cancer. Pat Wheeler has been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and will be determining a course of treatment over the next months.

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stepped out of the kitchen and said, "I'm ready." On that very day both were saved from their sins through the gospel!

Do not allow the blood of Christ to be administered to your account. Look at that passage above. *"...Being now justified by his blood..."* The blood of Christ is there for everybody, but it is only appropriated to the souls of the saved. Imagine, if it were applied to every human being, but somebody wanted to be lost. What a scenario, that a person couldn't be lost, even if he or she tried!

The blood of Christ, which atones for sin, is available to everyone, but only certain ones are forgiven of their sins. What makes the difference? Genes? Wealth? Education? Race? Gender? Nationality? Well, the difference is whether or not a person is seeking salvation. And since we know that the gospel is to be preached to everyone, shouldn't we think that salvation is available to everyone?

"And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world." (1 Jn 2:2)

The atoning blood of Christ is applied when one is baptized for remission of sins. Please consider these passages in the gospel:

"Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins..." (Acts 2:38, ESV).

"And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name." (Acts 22:16)

"Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water." (Heb. 10:22)

So, if a person were trying to be lost, that person would definitely want to stay away from baptism for remissions of sins. Biblical immersion is where the blood is applied.

Further, once a person has become a Christian, if there is a change of heart, and this person decides to be lost again, all that is required is getting back into sin and refusing to confess those sins and ask forgiveness. Hear the apostle on this point:

"But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1Jn 1:7-9)

There are two places to avoid if you want to be lost: 1) baptism, 2) confessions and prayer. At these two places, the blood of Christ is applied against our sins.

Refuse to live a holy life-style. Several passages in the New Testament explain that when a person lives like a worldly he or she cannot expect to be saved in the judgment. Here is a sample:

"Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God." (1Cor. 6:9-10)

For those who are seeking a good place with God, a holy life style is necessary. Holiness is the idea of being cleansed of sin and fit for God's service. (2 Tim. 2:19-21) Special clothing or a peculiar speech are not the thing about holiness, but it is simply a life free from the practice of sin that is required.

"Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord." (Heb. 12:14)

"But as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all conduct, since it is written, 'You shall be holy, for I am holy.'" (1 Peter 1:15-16, ESV)

Jesus Himself had words for those who were determined to make a place for themselves in Hell. *"The children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light. And I say unto you, make yourself friends of the mammon of unrighteousness, that when ye fail, they may receive you into everlasting habitations."* (Luke 16:8-9, KJ21. See also Acts 13:46)

Now, you might think that putting the gospel in such an inverted frame is silly or outrageous, but there are people in the world who actually champion the cause of being lost. They promote sin, mock God, laugh at the judgment, and ridicule the notion of a holy life. The "hold the line" on their underling sinners, and glorify the sinful behaviors of the "here and now." Notice that they have the above points "down pat." They avoid the gospel, make no effort at having the blood of Christ applied to their hearts, and steer clear of godly living. They will be lost.

George Hutto