

Why Are The Lost, Lost?

We must guard ourselves from being lost in sin. The condition is not only damning, but it is viciously deceptive. Lost people rarely see themselves as lost.

The story is told about a farmer who was bitten by a poisonous snake, and weakly staggered into his house. Family members hurried to a nearby doctor to get anti-venom. Relieved to get the anti-venom, they rushed home to administer it. Inexplicably, the farmer refused the anti-venom, and died. The coroner later wrote on the farmer's death certificate; "Cause of death —snake bite." Do you agree? Would you think the cause of death would be "foolishness" or "stubbornness"?

What about the refusal of anti-venom? What about the farmer's inexplicable attitude? Yes, these are factors; factors as to why he *wasn't saved* from death. There is a distinction between why he died, versus why he was not saved? He would not need a *saving grace* if he did not first have a *death cause*.

We may think one is lost in sin because he/she did not believe and obey the Gospel. However, the Gospel is not the *death cause*; rather, the Gospel is the *saving grace*.

Here's why it is important to know why we are lost.

- Some plan to obey the Gospel sometime before they die, so when it's "time to go", they won't be lost then. This thinking ignores the present. Sinners are lost once sin is committed, not just upon dying in sin. It's not just a problem one wants to avoid later on, it's a problem that must be addressed now!
- Many sinners do not consider themselves lost, because they see themselves as relatively "good". What matters with God are the concepts of "lost" and "saved". Those in Christ are saved, (*not condemned—Rom. 8:1*). Being either "good" or "bad" will not justify us outside of Christ. Those not in Christ are lost.

Why the lost are lost is because of sins; their sins.

- God told Judah, "The soul who sins shall die." It was because of *their sins* God would bring judgment against Judah. (Ezek. 18). They were guilty of idolatry, adultery, murder, oppressing the poor, and oppressing the aged.
- Jesus told Jews because of *their sins* they were presently dead (*lost*). He said, "You are from beneath; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins." Jesus explained further that these Jews were in denial of *their sins*. (John 8)
- When Jesus spoke of taking the Gospel to the whole world he explained it was *their sins* which caused the need. He commanded "that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations." (Luke 24:47). People in the world are condemned because of their sins. This tells us what message we need to take to all the world, including us.

We see that sin is what causes us to be lost. Sin is the central problem. Why? Sin opposes God, it is "lawlessness". Sin falls short of the glory of God. It misses the mark, either falling short or going beyond God's will. All discerning people have sinned. Sin leaves us dead to God. Sin is the cause of death. Hence, we need to do all we can to prevent sin. If we have sinned, we need salvation. (Luke 19:10; 1st John 3:4; Rom. 3:23; Gen. 2:17; Rom. 6:23; 1st Cor. 15:56).

Now that we know why the lost are lost, let's ask "How can the lost be saved?"

The Gospel of Christ saves us from being lost. Salvation from our sins is given by God through his Son Jesus Christ. Jesus' blood paid the price for our redemption. The lost can be saved by believing Christ, repenting of our sins, confessing Christ, being baptized into Christ, and continuing in Christ. (Titus 2:11; Acts 2:38; Rom. 10:9-10; 1 Pet. 1:17-19).

Now that we know how the lost can be saved let's ask, "Why are some of the lost not saved? Why are they still lost?"

Because of their foolishness or stubbornness they have rejected saving grace. Yes, in a manner of speaking, they are lost because of unbelief. But more specifically, they were *lost* at the point of sinning, and they are *still lost* because they "know not God...and obey not the gospel" (2nd Thessalonians. 1:8-9).

In conclusion, if we are lost, we need to see it, address with the Gospel of Christ, and we need to help others see it as well.

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