

2001 Proclaimer

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, .. to proclaim the favorable year of the Lord!" - Isa. 61:1-2

A teaching and exhortation medium by members of the
Carmichael Church of Christ, meeting at 6044 Sutter Ave. Carmichael, CA 95608

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March 18th, 2001

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE LOST

by Bobby L. Graham

Few people, if any, give serious thought to the idea of being lost in hell. Stop and think for a minute, "How long has it really been since I soberly considered the possibility of being condemned at the judgment and spending eternity in torment?" Furthermore, what does it mean to be lost--in terms of time and eternity what does it mean?

The word of the Lord certainly teaches the possibility of my being lost and the certainty of hell. Near the close of the sermon on the mount, Jesus urged men to enter and follow the narrow way that leadeth unto life and added the note that few will find it because many are following the broad way lead-ing unto destruction. (**Matt. 7:13-14.**) After the Lord had finished his description of the last judgment in **Matt. 25:31-45**, his epilogue noted that the wicked shall go away into everlasting punishment and the righteous into life eternal. What sounder warning or more reflective words could be used to admonish concerning the reality of punishment? There will be no doubt in the mind of the condemned person as to what punishment means; even so, let us learn what it means to be lost.

Separated from God

The lost person is separated from God in this life. Isaiah reminded God's people in his day that their iniquities had separated between them and their God and their sins had hid His face that He would not hear. (**Isa 59:1-2.**) 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.**) But, my friend, separation from God in this life is not worthy to be compared to eternal separation from God. (**2 Thess. 1:6-9.**)

Servant of Sin

The man who is lost is one who serves sin, as Paul notes in **Rom. 6:16-19**. He serves sin through his obedience to sin as he yields his members as servants to the cause of iniquity. 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? But the man who obeys sin is sure to be lost if he does not repent, for he has chosen the wrong master. Let it be remembered likewise that we cannot serve two masters; and to attempt such is to neglect the Lord and serve the devil.

Let each of us examine himself to determine whom he is serving, and in this way know whether he is lost.

Christ's Death in Vain

To the lost individual the death of Christ means nothing. As far as he personally is concerned, Jesus' death was useless--vain--because it means nothing to him. He has not benefited; therefore, he is still lost. This is the person who counts the blood of Christ an unholy (common, light) thing. Since he places no special value on the blood of the cross, he makes no attempt to obtain its benefits. He classifies everything associated with the death of our Lord as null and void.

Word of Judgment Rejected

"He that rejecteth me and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him In the last day." (**Jno 12:48**) The lost man whom Jesus described in this verse rejects the very word by which judgment will be rendered. He thus abandons all hope of salvation that the Lord has offered to any man. The only hope of the Christian in the judgment is Christ, whose blood cleanses those who are walking in the light. (**1 Jno 1:7**) But the only way he can possibly know

how to walk in the light is by the word of light. (**Psa 119:105.**) When one rejects God's word, he accordingly throws all hope overboard.

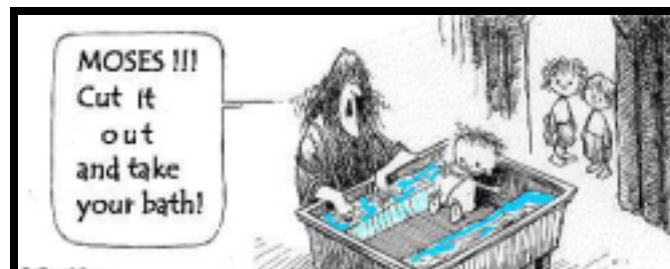
All Spiritual Blessings Forfeited

Being lost also means that a person has forfeited every blessing of a spiritual nature. All of them are found in Christ (**Eph. 1:3**), and the man not in Christ cannot enjoy them. All of the lost--alien sinners and unfaithful children of God--are outside of Christ either by failing to enter or failing to abide in him. The election and predestination of God, redemption and acceptance in Christ, being God's inheritance, the right of prayer, the exceeding great and precious promises, and many others are outside the reach of the lost: they have forfeited them. The lost individual, for instance, does not enjoy the peace of God that passes understanding; it does not guard his heart and mind as it does for the Christian. (**Phil 4:7**)

Damnation

Being lost as one goes through this life means separation from God, service to sin, Christ's death in vain, rejection of the word of judgment, forfeiting all spiritual blessings. As far as eternity is concerned, being lost spells eternal condemnation. The punishment of the lost is not pleasant to consider. As to its time, it is everlasting; its motive is vengeance; its nature is fiery tribulation; and its subjects are the host of wickedness, both earthly and spiritual. (**2 Thess 1:6-9; Matt 25:41.**) This, my friend, is what it means to be lost. Will you then not heed the warning and do the Lord's bidding that you might escape the sure condemnation of God and win His divine favor in the after awhile?

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**PLEASE BE BUSY PRAYING FOR
AND SERVING ONE ANOTHER**

THE SICK:

William & Helen Gray *Bill & Evie Westphal*
Sue & Truman Claiborne *Willa Lockett*
Josie Steadman *Rick Saccone*
Rena Shultz *Terri Sasse*

THOSE TRAVELLING:

Sanderson's are in Vacaville today
Steve Bryant is in Bay Area
Jessica Sadler is in Oregon
Rena Schultz will be in New Mexico 3/22-26

Thank you for your prayers and ministering efforts to those who are ill or traveling. May God bless all of our serving!

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SERVICES HERE:

SUNDAY:

Classes 9:00 AM
Worship 9:55 AM
Eve Worship 6:00 PM

WEDNESDAY:

Classes 7:00 PM

Give Satan an inch and he'll be a ruler.

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God doesn't call the qualified, He qualifies the called.

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God grades on the cross, not the curve.

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God loves everyone, but probably prefers "fruits of the spirit" over "religious nuts"!

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God promises a safe landing, not a calm passage.

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Having truth decay? Brush up on your Bible!

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Kindness is difficult to give away because it keeps coming back.

GOSPEL EFFORTS
in Our Area for you to attend:

HERE IN CARMICHAEL
Dean Crews from Brea, on
"Being Different from the World"
April 20-22, 2001

HAZEL AVENUE IN ORANGEVALE

Dick Milwee from Bakersfield, on
"Worldly Preoccupations"
March 30-April 1, 2001

MACK ROAD IN SACRAMENTO

Don Wilson from Loomis, on
"Husband & Wife Relationships"
April 1-6, 2001

READING STREET IN FOLSOM

Paul Earnhart preaching
In May, 2001 TBA

Fifth Friday

SINGING IN VACAVILLE

March 30, 2001

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He who is good at making excuses is seldom good for anything else.

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He who kneels before God can stand before anyone!

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Most people want to serve God, but only in an advisory capacity.

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He who angers you, controls you!

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Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the ark.

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"Pray" is a four letter word that you can say anywhere.

"THE PASSOVER MEAL AND THE BETRAYAL"

Luke 22:1-6; John 13:21-30

INTRODUCTION:

- A. After intense days of drama and conflict that began with His entry into Jerusalem, Jesus spends quiet hours in the home of friends in Bethany.
- B. It was after this that Judas went to Jerusalem.
 - 1. His may have been going to the city to prepare for the Passover.
 - 2. Jewish *tradition* insists that even the poorest Jews should do all they could to have a lamb.
- C. **Again, nothing for Jesus is accidental this week**, for He had come to fulfill the promises of God.

I. EATING THE PASSOVER SUPPER WITH THE TRAITOR

- A. The Passover was sacred to Jewish people and was different from all other meals. Guests came and were seated with care and order.
 - 1. By looking at John's account we can guess at the seating arrangements.
 - 2. Near that "open" end reclined John, then Jesus, then Judas.
- B. It probably wasn't much different from the other Passover feasts they'd had.
- C. The announcement that a traitor was in their midst at Passover sent shock waves through the disciples.
 - 1. Each disciple in grief and shock asks if he might be that traitor.
 - 2. Judas was seated in a position that demanded that he dip bread with Jesus.

II. THE LORD'S SUPPER HAS ITS ESTABLISHMENT IN THIS SETTING

- A. The time at the Passover Seder was not quite over when they ate the lamb.
- B. Here is a traitor and denier, in the middle of those who would all desert Him.
 - 1. All of us are represented by those who were gathered in that upper room.
 - 2. For those today who have died with the Lamb, the Supper calls us to celebrate and remember that Jesus paid for our welcome at his table.

III. THE TRAITOR MUST NOW ATTEND TO HIS BUSINESS.

- A. After Judas left and Jesus went ahead and instituted the Lord's Supper, then further encourages the disciples. **Jno 13:34-35**.
- B. They left the upper room and went to the Mount of Olives, where Jesus prayed.
 - 1. An angel appeared to strengthen Him. **Lk 22:44**
 - 2. He came back to His disciples and found them asleep. **Lk 22:46**
 - 3. Next, Judas comes and plants the betrayal kiss. **Luke 22:47-48**
 - 4. His disciples tried to defend Him, but Jesus restrained them.

CONCLUSION:

- A. **THEY** ate the Passover to commemorate that salvation of the Lord.
- B. **TODAY, WE** eat the Lord's Supper in memory of *what was required of the Lord* for us to obtain the forgiveness of our sins, and to anticipate His return.
- C. **EVEN WITH THE KNOWLEDGE OF THESE THINGS**, we must still be encouraged to **OBEY** the will of the Lord, to **COMMIT** to His cause, and to have an **ALLEGIANCE** to steadfast faithfulness!