

Why Are We So Lost?

A. Listening Friends

1. Do you prefer to be saved? . . . Or . . .
2. Do you prefer to be lost?
3. Unless we are saved, we are lost . . . And if we are lost, then we are not saved.
4. Which are you?
5. Which do you want to be?

B. Before we can really see our own predicament, we must understand something about God.

1. **Psalm 92:15** tells us something about what kind of God we do have. When it comes to God, “. . . There is no unrighteousness in Him.”
2. **1 John 1:5** - “. . . There is no darkness in Him at all.”
3. **Hebrews 6:18** - “. . . It is impossible for God to lie . . .”
4. **Titus 1:2** - “. . . God, who cannot lie . . .” It doesn’t say, “God chose not to.”
 - a. It doesn’t mean God can lie if He wanted to.
 - b. It is the very nature of His being that He not lie.
 - c. There are some things God can’t do.
 1. God can’t lie.
 2. God can’t sin.
 - d. God is absolute pure righteousness, and holiness, and justice.

C. There are two sides to God.

1. We generally hear people talk about the side of God that is love . . . the side of God that is merciful. . . the side of God that is always going out of His way to rescue us and help us. That is a side of God and perhaps the one we hear most about. However, we can’t appreciate the “God is love” side until we come to understand the “God is just side.”
2. God is just . . . God is Righteous . . . God is holy.

D. We have to see that before we can understand our own predicament. While there is no unrighteousness in Him,

1. The Bible says in **Romans 3:10** - “. . . There is none of us righteous . . .”
2. Now do you see the contrast:
 - a. The Bible says there is NO unrighteousness in Him.
 - b. That same Bible says that NONE of us are righteous.
3. God wants us with Him, but God is so holy, and righteous, and pure and just.
 - a. He cannot tolerate contamination in His Holy presence!
 - b. Friends, We are the contamination! There is the predicament that we are in.

4. **ILLUSTRATION:** What if I were to tell you that the other night my wife brought me a peanut butter and jelly sandwich for supper. I like jelly with my peanut butter. Peanut butter and Jelly sandwich. Roach in it. Had run around in there. A leg here, a hare there, etc. I took a spoon and flicked out the roach, the leg, and the hair, and anything else I could find, and just in case I had overlooked something, I just stirred it all up in case I missed anything.
 5. I believe we understand the meaning of contamination. It lessens something that without the contamination would be pure.
- E. The Bible says God fills heaven and earth.
1. How big is heaven? Describe the three heavens.
 2. How big is the second heaven?
 - a. Just our galaxy, just the Milky Way Galaxy is a 100,000 light years across.
 - b. If you could get in one of our spaceships (Columbia, for instance) and travel at the speed of light (186,000 miles per second) (our space ships travel at the speed of 14,000, 15,000 miles per hour), it would take us 100,000 years to travel from one side of our Milky Way galaxy to the other.
 - c. I am told that there may be 100 - 400 billion stars in our Milky Way galaxy alone, and at the same time there may be a 100 billion galaxies in our universe.
 - d. It is incredible how big that second heaven out there really is.
 - e. One report said there 800 billion suns in one galaxy.
 3. “Lord, since you fill heaven and earth, could there not be one little roach hair of unrighteousness in You hidden behind one of those little-biddy stars out there in some far off galaxy? The answer is no! The Bible says that when it comes to God, there is no unrighteousness in Him. He is absolutely pure . . . so pure that He cannot tolerate contamination.
 - a. We have a hard time understanding that because we tend to want to look at the good side of ourselves.
 - b. We can always find somebody that we are better than.
 - c. We tend to pick out our sins and rationalize that they are not so bad.
 - d. “I do so few sins that I couldn’t have done more than three yesterday.”
 - e. There are many ways we can sin.
 1. Things which we do.
 2. Things which we say.
 3. Things which we omit.
 4. Things which we think. (Lusting in one’s heart, hating someone, etc.)
 - f. How many times do you think the average person sins each day. Have you ever put a pencil to than one?
 - a. A 100 times a day?

- b. Divide that in half - 50 times a day?
- c. Divide that in half - 25 times a day?
- d. How about 12, 10, 9, 8, 7, etc. We are getting more and more moral as we go along in this calculation, aren't we?
- g. The person who felt he sinned no more than about three times a day would be considered an upright, moral citizen of the community, wouldn't he? Let's do a little calculating here. Three times a day . . .
 - 1. How many days in a year? 365
 - 2. $3 \times 365 = 1095$ sins a year.
 - 3. If he is responsible to God for about sixty years of his life, $60 \times 1095 = 65,700$ sins. 65,700 crimes on his record against God and we call him a decent, upright, moral man?
 - 4. Let's divide that in half. 32,850 sins . . . is that better?
 - 5. How about 15,000? 7500? 3000? 2000? 1000? Doesn't that sound better? We are getting more and more moral, aren't we? But it doesn't seem to help . . . We are lawbreakers, frankly, when it comes to God's judicial system.
 - a. Because I haven't murdered anybody does not mean that I have not broken God's moral law.
 - b. Because I haven't robbed a bank, doesn't mean that I have not broken God's moral law.
 - c. **Romans 3:10** - “. . . There is none righteous, no, not one.”
 - d. The problem with Romans 3:10 is **Romans 6:23** - “For the wages of sin is death . . .”
 - 1. All of us have sinned.
 - 2. Even though we can find somebody that we are better than, we have sinned.
 - 3. **ILLUSTRATION:** Being chased by a raging bear. Life is at stake. Come to a wide chasm hundred yards across. No time nor resources to build a bridge. We run and we jump. The world record broad jump at one time was 29 feet, two and one half inches. Let's say we double that and we jump almost sixty feet . . . and down we go. Others jump 20 feet, 12 feet, 10 feet, 5 feet. Some just kind of fall over the edge. We jumped farther, we are better than others. The problem is, we all hit the bottom. We cannot cross over by ourselves . . . without being assisted beyond our ability.
 - 4. There are none of us righteous enough to get ourselves to Heaven.

F. How many sins does it take to get us into trouble with God?

1. **Romans 6:23** - “For the wages of sin is death . . .” How many does it say? Sin, or sins.
 2. All it takes is one sin for us to be condemned to eternal death, even if we were better than all other people who have ever lived.
 3. All it takes is one sin . . . one contamination.
 4. We don’t deserve Heaven . . . we deserve Hell.
 5. **Romans 6:23** - “For the WAGES of sin is death.”
 - a. A wage is what we earn.
 - b. Death is what we have earned . . . death is what we deserve, and it only takes one sin.
- G. What does that say to us? It says that we need someone to rescue us. The Bible says His name is Jesus.
1. We need Jesus more than we need the air we are sucking into our lungs at this very moment.
 2. I am so thankful there is another half to that verse, **Romans 6:23** - “For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”
 - a. The wages we have earned is death.
 - b. The free gift God has given to us is eternal life through His Son, Jesus Christ.
 - c. **ILLUSTRATION:** The schoolhouse. Big Tom, whose lunch was stolen, take the licking’ for little Billy. With justice, there can be mercy.
 3. **Isaiah 53:4-6** - “He has born our griefs, He has carried our sorrows . . . smitten by God
 4. (God smote His own Son) We esteemed Him stricken, He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities . . . All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way.”
 4. With justice there can be mercy.
 5. God does not have to be merciful to us, but He does have to be just for He is not God. God chooses to be merciful.
 6. **ILLUSTRATION:** a number of years ago a young lady was stopped and ticketed for a rather severe traffic law violation. The officer took her before the judge. When asked how she pled, she said, “I am Guilty, your honor.” He told her that the penalty demanded a hundred dollar fine or ten days in jail. At that particular point, the judge got up, removed his judicial robe, and stepped down and around the judicial bench, took out his billfold and laid a hundred dollars on the bench, paying her fine.
 - a. Now let me ask you, “to be an honorable judge, did he have to administer justice?” Yes.
 - b. Now let me ask you, “Did he have to pay her fine for her?”
 1. No, he chose to pay her fine.
 2. He chose to be merciful.

3. It cost him, but he chose to pay her fine.
- c. With justice he showed that there can be mercy . . . there doesn't have to be . . . but there can be mercy.
- d. You see, at one point, as her judge, he administered justice, then at another point as . . . her father . . . paid her fine for her.
7. Praise God for Jesus! We need Jesus more than we need anything else. For you see, Jesus, our Savior, is related to the Judge.
 - a. The Judge is His Father.
 - b. The Judge is God!
 - c. Jesus is our Friend.
 - d. Our friend will be our Jude. **John 5:22** – “For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son.”
8. The penalty has to be paid.”
 - a. We can pay for it ourselves, or . . .
 - b. We can let Jesus pay it for us . . . With His shed blood . . . With our faithful obedience.
 - c. The choice is ours . . . The choice is yours.
9. **Will your render obedience to the gospel of Christ and allow His precious shed blood cleanse you of every sin in your life?**
10. He can pay . . . Or you can pay . . . Which will it be for you?
11. How does Jesus pay our penalty for us? By what He has already done. He died for us.

The Plan of Salvation