

"Sirs, What Must I Do to be Lost?"

Ephesians 2:1-10

INTRODUCTION:

A. Lesson Text: **Ephesians 2:1-10**

B. The most profound question man can ask this side of the Garden of Eden . . .

". . . Sirs, what must I do to be Saved." **Acts 16:30**

1. Three times in the NT a form of this question is asked and answered.

- Acts 2:37** - (Jews in Jerusalem) "Men and brethren, what shall we do?"
- Acts 9:6** - (Saul outside Damascus) "Lord, what do you want me to do?"
- Acts 16:30** - ." (Roman Jailor in Philippi) "Sirs, what must I do to be Saved?"

2. Please observe:

- One large crowd and two individuals asked the question.
- Each time they asked "what."
- Each time they used the word "do" noting something needed to be done.
- Each time they received further instructions leading to obedience.
- Each time those asking obeyed the gospel in being baptized into Christ.
 - The crowd in Jerusalem - ". . . Those who gladly received his word were baptized . . ." **Acts 2:41** (1st of 10)
 - Saul/Paul - ". . . And he arose and was baptized." **Acts 9:18** (5th of 10)
 - Philippian Jailor - ". . . And immediately he and all his family were baptized." **Acts 16:33** (8th of 10)

3. The one who obeys what God says:

- Will be motivated to change his values and his lifestyle.
- Will no longer live to please himself but to please the one who died for him.
- Will be different from the world as he faithfully serves the will of God . . . And he will not be embarrassed by the difference.
- Will be faithful to God's will for his life.

B. Having said this, let us now consider the opposite scenario.

1. What about those who do not want to be saved?

- We have all known people who live for themselves without regard for God.
- We have all known wicked people who have no regard for what is right.
- We meet more and more people who do not even believe God exists.

2. But . . . We have never heard anyone ask, "What must I do to be lost?"

- At the age of accountability they turn from being safe to being lost.
- The great majority do not turn from the state of being lost to being saved.

"WHAT MUST I DO TO BE LOST?" BASICALLY, NOTHING AT ALL.

Follow the crowd and lead a satisfying life. (*Be like everyone else.*)

- A. Reach the age of accountability, do not obey the Gospel, and being lost just automatically kicks in.
1. There is no letter of notification that your status before God has changed.
 2. There is no letter of congratulations acknowledging that you are now lost.
 3. There are no official letters of invitation from groups inviting you to join them now that you have reached the status of being lost.
 4. You have just joined the world and the world is lost.
 - a. **Ephesians 2:1-3** – “And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.”
 1. See how Paul describes such:
 - a. Dead in their sins.
 - b. Walking according to the world.
 - c. Walking according to power of the devil, the “prince of the air.”
 - d. Are a son of disobedience.
 - e. Fulfilling the lusts and desires of the flesh and mind.
 - f. Are children of wrath.
 2. Didn’t ask to be this way, it just kicked in. Had you asked, “Sirs, what must I do to be lost?” This would be part of the answer.
 - b. **Romans 3:23** – “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”
 1. You didn’t ask how to fall short of the glory of God. You just went out and did it because that is the way this world works under sin.
 2. “All” includes everyone and excludes no one who has reached the age of accountability.
 3. **People have not asked the question, “Sirs, what must I do to be lost?” but they have certainly lived its answer!**
- B. Jesus died to make salvation available to all people, but not all people will accept the salvation He is providing. In fact, the large majority are not.
1. Jesus Himself taught that few would be saved.
 - a. **Matthew 7:13-14** – “Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.”
 - b. Jesus concluded the parable of the wedding feast by saying in **Matthew 22:14** – “For many are called, but few are chosen.”
 2. This is the lesson of the great flood.

- a. According to 2 Peter 2:5, Noah was preacher of righteousness, but people would not heed his message.
 - b. Salvation was available to all who would enter the ark. All outside the ark perished. Few = only 8 saved out of a projected 25 million people.
 - c. When the one door was closed, all opportunity was over.
- C. Sin is a global pandemic.
1. **Romans 3:10 & 23** – “As it is written: "There is none righteous, no, not one" “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”
 2. **Romans 6:23** – “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”
 - a. It kills everyone it infects.
 - b. Those who follow the crowd are lost eternally.
 - c. They may fit in on earth, but not in Heaven.

"WHAT MUST I DO TO BE LOST?" JUST STRIVE TO BE A GOOD, CLEAN MORAL PERSON LIKE CORNELIUS.

- A. All will agree the very wicked deserve to be lost, eternally condemned to Hell.
 1. Saddam Hussein, Hitler, murderers, rapists, child molesters, etc.
 2. Some would even add politicians and lawyers to that list.
- B. Nonetheless, some people have difficulty accepting that “good people” deserve to be lost.
 1. We all know nice people who don’t do really bad things. We want them to be saved.
 2. We know of philanthropists who do many good works to help multitudes of people.
 3. What about our heroes in society who give their lives to save others? What about their sin?
- C. No one can be good enough to earn Heaven. It is given as a gift. It cannot be earned.
 1. To save one sinner on the basis of the sinner’s merit would be to discredit God. How?
 2. Imagine God sending Jesus to die to save people who could have saved themselves.
 3. **Romans 3:23** – “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”
 - a. Even at one’s own best, he is still far short of being perfect.
 - b. We cannot become perfect . . . We can be made perfect through the blood of Christ.
- D. All sin **MUST** be dealt with in one of two ways.
 1. By **PUNISHMENT**.
 - a. **Romans 6:23** – “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”
 - b. Some will receive a greater condemnation. Mark 12:40

2. Through **FORGIVENESS**.

- a. **Colossians 1:13-14** – “He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.”
- b. Obeying the gospel is God’s avenue that leads to forgiveness. Seeking salvation on any other terms will result in the seekers being lost.

"WHAT MUST I DO TO BE LOST?" SEEK TO APPROACH GOD IN YOUR OWN WAY.

A. If every way is right, then no way could be wrong.

1. **Proverbs 14:12** – “There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.”
2. **Matthew 7:21** – “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.”
3. **John 14:6** – “Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”

B. The opinions of man have no value; only those of the sovereign God have sway.

C. Some ways men have chosen to seek God today.

1. Through the Old Testament alone.
2. By just keeping the Ten Commandments.
3. By establishing their own concept of Christianity then following it.
4. By allowing someone else to take care of it for them.
5. By choosing denominationalism over the Church they can read about in the Bible.

D. The Bible have provided us with both warnings and guidance.

1. **2 Timothy 4:1-3** – “Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron, forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. ”
2. **2 Peter 3:16** – “As also in all his [Paul] epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures.”
4. **1 John 4:1** – “Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.”
5. Some things to think about.
 - a. Scriptures can be used wrongly.
 - b. Not all that is taught in the name of Christ is Christ.

- c. God has provided only one way and Satan will do his best to lure people away from it.
 - d. Not all that sounds like doctrine is sound doctrine.
- E. In all matters of religion and life, stay with the Bible.

"WHAT MUST I DO TO BE LOST?" **DELAY OBEDIENCE TO THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST.**

- A. Governor Felix is a classic Biblical example. **Acts 24:25** – “Now as he reasoned about righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid and answered, ‘Go away for now; when I have a convenient time I will call for you.’”
- B. Many have a similar attitude.
1. People don’t want to face the reality or the consequences of their sin.
 2. People want to enjoy a sinful life now with full intentions of repenting later.
 3. There is no guarantee of tomorrow . . . No one plans to die today.
 - a. In Oak Grove, Alabama, at November 30, 1954 at 2:46 p.m., 31 yr. old Ann Hodges had laid down on her couch to take a nap when a meteorite the size of a grapefruit crashed through the roof and struck while she slept.
 - b. Latrell Dunbar, a junior fullback for D’iberville High School in Mississippi collapsed on the football field during a game and die of a heart attack.
 4. God warns humanity of the peril of being caught unprepared to meet him.
 - a. **Amos 4:12** – “. . . Prepare to meet your God . . .”
 - b. A rich and prosperous farmer had everything going for him, but his soul was required of him that every night. (Luke 12:16-21) He made plans for a great future, plans that did not include torment.
 - c. God references him as being a fool. . With that in mind, let me suggest four things that this man did that made him a fool.
 1. He had full barns, but an empty heart.
 2. He overestimated himself and underestimated God.
 3. He forgot about the real business of life and got on with the business of selfishness.
 4. He forgot about time and was introduced into eternity.
- C. Delay is dangerous and often fatal.
1. **Acts 17:30-31** – “Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.”
 2. **Mark 14:32** – “But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.”
 3. Delay is risky . . . Delay is dangerous . . . Delay can be eternally fatal.

"WHAT MUST I DO TO BE LOST?" BELIEVE AND RESPOND TO THE GOSPEL BUT DO NOT SERVE GOD FAITHFULLY THEREAFTER.

- A. A number of people go through the form of obeying the gospel and then just go their own way.
- B. God does not come to you on your terms . . . You must come to Him on His terms. Those terms involve obedient to the gospel followed by spiritual growth and faithfulness.
 - 1. God's servants to God's will in God's way.
 - 2. Servants serve . . . Children obey. Servants **DO** things . . . No just believe things.
 - 3. Christians are different and should make a difference.
 - 4. Christians are light and should dispel darkness.
- C. Faithfulness involves honoring God's will daily and living it in all areas of our lives.
 - 1. **2 Peter 3:18** – "But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ . . ."
 - 2. **Romans 6:18** – Christians are "servants of righteousness."
 - 3. Know . . . Grow . . . Do. Know God's . . . Grow in God's way . . . Do God's will daily.

"WHAT MUST I DO TO BE LOST?" REJECT GOD.

- A. This seems to be an increasing popular trend.
 - 1. If the Bible says something is wrong, people want to try it.
 - 2. Whatever the Bible teaches, today's culture says it is outdated and those who believe otherwise are unenlightened.
 - 3. Humanism has pushed God out of the forefront of human needs.
 - 4. Science has become a religion to many.
 - 5. The idea of God is being rejected in our schools, politics, and many areas of our society.
- B. Samuel said to the Israelites in **1 Samuel 10:19** – "But you have today rejected your God, who Himself saved you from all your adversities and your tribulations . . ."
- C. Jeremiah's question in **Jeremiah 8:9** is timely for us today: ". . . Behold, they have rejected the word of the Lord; So what wisdom do they have? . . ."

DO YOU REALLY KNOW WHAT IT MEANS TO BE LOST?

- A. Listening friends, God beckons all of mankind to be saved. His invitation is to and for the entire human family.
 - 1. He knows what it means for a human being to be lost and He has lovingly warned us in the Bible so we can know and do something about it.

- a. **Hebrews 9:27** - "And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment."
- b. **Romans 3:9** – “. . . They are all under sin.”
- c. **Romans 3:10** – “. . . There is none righteous, no not one.”
- d. **Romans 3:23** – “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”
- e. **Romans 5:12** – “Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned.”
- e. **Ezekiel 18:20** – “The soul who sins shall die . . .”
- f. **John 8:34** – “. . . ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin.’”

B. What does it mean to be lost?

1. **LOST AND WITHOUT HOPE.** **Ephesians 2:12** – “That at that time you were without Christ, (1) being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel (2) and strangers from the covenants of promise, (3) having no hope and (4) without God in the world.”
 - If you are without God in this world, you will be without Him in the next world as well.
2. **DOOMED TO A PRAYERLESS LIFE.**
 - a. **John 9:31** – “Now we know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does His will, He hears him.”
 - b. **Proverbs 15:29** – “The Lord is far from the wicked, But He hears the prayer of the righteous.”
 - c. Without God and prayer, where will you turn in a crisis?
3. **WITHOUT SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS.** **Ephesians 1:3** – “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.”
4. **WITHOUT REDEMPTION.**
 - a. **Romans 3:24** – “Being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.”
 - b. **Ephesians 1:7** – “In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.”
 - c. You own a debt you cannot pay, and Jesus paid a debt He did not owe. He is willing to pay your sin debt for you.
5. **WILL DIE TWO DEATHS.**
 - a. **Physical death** (All people). **Hebrews 9:27** – “And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment.”
 - b. **Spiritual death** (All lost souls). **Revelation 20:14-15** – “Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.”

- Live for God here and live with God eternally . . . Live without God here and you will live without God in a hell provided for the devil and his angels.

6. WILL BE CAST INTO HELL.

a. **Revelation 20:15** – “And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.”

b. Just as Heaven is a prepared place for a prepared people . . . Hell is a prepared place for . . .

1. An **unprepared** people.
2. An **unconverted** people.
3. An **unfaithful** people.
4. An **unbelieving** people.
5. A **spiritually dead** people.
6. A **disobedient** people.
7. A **religiously wrong** people.
8. A **rejecting God** people.

D. God does not want you to be lost . . . God wants you to be saved.

1. **Romans 5:8-9** – “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.”
2. **Romans 3:24-25** – “Being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed.”
3. **Romans 6:11-14** – “Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.”
4. **Romans 6:16-18** – “Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness? But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.”
5. **Romans 6:20-23** – “For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. What fruit did you have then in the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have

your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life. For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

6. **1 Corinthians 15:22** – "For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive."
7. **Titus 2:11-12** – "For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men."

E. The Bible declares that man is lost and in need of salvation. God's love for the human family moved Him to provide a remedy to man's sin problem.

1. **John 3:16-17** – "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved."
2. **Romans 5:8-9** – "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."
3. God's great provision provides the human creation with choices.
 - a. We can live a life with God or without God.
 - b. We can live a life for God or against God.
 - c. We can live obediently or disobediently before God.
4. We can live a God-centered life or a self-centered life.
5. We can live under God's favor or under His wrath.
6. We can live this life Heaven-bound or Hell-bound. The choice is ours.

D. Have you ever noticed that in a time of great crisis or need, the people without God turn to the people with God for help?

CONCLUSION:

A. What must I do to be lost? We have suggest six things:

1. Basically, nothing at all . . . Follow the crowd and lead a satisfying life. (Be like everyone else.)
2. Just do one's best to be a good, moral person like Cornelius.
3. Seek to approach God in one's own way.
4. Believe the gospel, but delay obeying it.
5. Accept the gospel, but fail to surrender and serve God.
6. Reject God.

B. We have observed six different things one can do to be lost . . . However, I can show you but one thing you must do to be saved . . . **Obey the gospel of Jesus Christ as He has given it in the Bible!**

1. God offers pardon, but that pardon must be accepted.
2. God offers forgiveness, but that forgiveness must be sought.
3. Christ shed His precious blood, but that blood must be reached.

C. **God's Plan for Man's Salvation**