

Our Responsibility Toward Lost Souls

Introduction

1. After the resurrection of Jesus Christ, He soon sent his disciples out to all the world in what we know as “the great commission.”
 - A. It is great because of the importance, need, and our responsibility for seeking the lost in order to teach them the truth of the gospel for salvation.
2. Each one of us should have a concern for lost souls and understand that it is truly the responsibility of every Christian to share the good news to everyone.
3. This morning I want us to look at the Christian’s responsibility and concern for lost souls.

Who Are the Lost?

1. We must understand that it is not man that decides this, God does.
 - A. But, God has given us information in this regard.
 - B. Thus, man has the ability to know who the lost are, and must make judgments in this regard.

John 7:24 Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment.

2. Those who are lost:

- 2 Corinthians 4:3 But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing,

A. Those without the gospel are lost.

Romans 10:14-15

- John 8:24 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.

A. Those without faith in the gospel are lost.

Romans 10:17

- Luke 13:3 I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish.

A. Those without repentance motivated by the gospel are lost.

2 Corinthians 7:9-10

- Mark 16:16 He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.

A. Those who reject the gospel and baptism are lost.**B. Who is the one that will be saved? (Those who are baptized)**

- Acts 2:47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.
 - A. **Those outside the Lord's church are lost.**
 - B. **Just because someone is kind and good doesn't mean that they will be saved Acts 10 (Cornelius)**
 - C. **Just because someone is devoted to some denomination doesn't mean they will be saved.**
Galatians 1:13-14
 - D. **Just because one is sincere in his convictions doesn't mean they will be saved**

Acts 26:9-11 "Indeed, I myself thought I must do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth. This I also did in Jerusalem, and many of the saints I shut up in prison, having received authority from the chief priests; and when they were put to death, I cast my vote against them. And I punished them often in every synagogue and compelled them to blaspheme; and being exceedingly enraged against them, I persecuted them even to foreign cities.

1 Timothy 1:13 although I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man; but I obtained mercy because I did it ignorantly in unbelief.

Acts 22:16 And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.'

- Revelation 3:14-16, 19 And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, 'These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God: I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, **because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.....** As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent.
 - A. Lukewarm and indifferent church members will be lost.**
 - B. Negligence is one of the most dangerous sins.**
- **Those who fall away (Apostasy) will be lost:**

Hebrews 3:12 Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in **departing from the living God;**

Hebrews 10:29-30 Of **how much worse punishment**, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace? For we know Him who said, "VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY," says the Lord. And again, "THE LORD WILL JUDGE HIS PEOPLE."

James 5:19-20 Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.

What Can We Do to Save the Lost?

1. **Always live right before lost souls.**
 - A. **Even the glorious message of salvation will seem repulsive when coming from a hypocrite, but the hypocrite is not usually concerned about lost souls in the first place.**
 - B. **Our life must be such that we are attracting souls to Christ and not driving them away.**

Romans 2:21-24

Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but **Christ lives in me**; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

2 Corinthians 3:2 You are our epistle written in our hearts, **known and read by all men**;

2. **Show interest in lost souls**
 - A. **Invite them to hear the gospel preached.**
 - B. **Continue to show interest by talking with them about Christ, His church and salvation.**
 - 1) **Give them some religious tracts.**
 - 2) **Try to encourage them to have a Bible study.**
 - 3) **Have the preacher or other spiritually minded brethren help assist you in a study with others.**

C. Some say I don't know enough to teach. Why?

Hebrews 5:12 For **though by this time you ought to be teachers**, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food.

2 Peter 3:18 but **grow in the grace and knowledge** of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.....

- 1) **I believe that most Christians know much more than they give themselves credit for.**

Why Should We Be Concerned about Lost Souls?

1. Because the Lord was concerned.

- A. **Remember, the Lord left His home in glory to seek the lost.**

Luke 19:10

- B. **The Lord gave His life that lost souls might be saved**

Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, **Christ died for us.**

2. Because of the value of souls.

- A. **If we can shed tears of joy when someone saves the physical life of a person, should we not weep for souls being eternally lost?**

- B. **Souls are worth much much more than physical life.**

Matthew 10:28

- C. **Once a soul has departed this world unprepared, it will always remain lost, separated from God for eternity.**

- 3. Because of our own souls.**
 - A. Can we expect to be saved if we don't care about the lost souls of those around about us?**
 - B. I once read about two people who were lost in a snow and ice storm together, and they got as close to each other as they could while buried in snow. By doing so, their body warmth went to each other, and they managed to stay alive by giving warmth to each other.**
 - C. In a way, that is how it is in our spiritual lives. By helping to save others, we save ourselves.**
 - 1) He who would save himself must save others.**

Conclusion

- 1. We need to pray that God will help us to do our part in saving lost souls from the depth of hell.**
 - A. I certainly don't want to go to hell and I really don't want others to go there.**
 - B. All we can do is try. Those who will not respond to the teaching of God – then shake the dust off and continue on.**

Matthew 10:14 And whoever will not receive you nor hear your words, when you depart from that house or city, **shake off the dust from your feet.**

