Why Men Are Lost

Intro: *Lost* is one of the saddest words in the English language. Just consider the tragedy of a lost child; or how grieved we are if we lose something of sentimental value. But these cannot compare with the emptiness that shall be ours if our souls are forever lost; Mat. 16:26 “For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?”

1. The majority of men have always been lost.
   a. In the days of Noah only eight souls were saved.
      i. Gen. 6-8
      ii. 1 Pet. 3:20 “Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water.”
   b. Not even ten righteous could be found in the millions in Sodom and Gomorrah (Gen. 18).
   c. During the time of Moses thousands were lost because of sin.
   d. During Christ’s time the masses rejected and crucified Him.

2. Today the picture is the same.

3. Many excuses will be used in the judgment day, but some will not be convincing.

I. WHY WE WILL NOT BE LOST.

A. God’s grace was ineffective.
   1. Grace is the unmerited gift of salvation which God extends to man.
   2. John 3:16 “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”
   3. 1 Pet. 1:3 “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,”
   4. Tit. 2:11 “For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,”

B. Christ failed to die for us.
   1. Calvinism teaches that Christ died only for the select few, who will be saved.
   2. Rom. 5:7-10 “For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. 8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. 10 For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.”
   3. 2 Cor. 5:14-15, 21 “For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: 15 And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again... 21 For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”
   4. 1 Tim. 2:6 “Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.”
   5. Heb. 2:9 “But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.”
   6. 1 Pet. 3:18 “For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the spirit:”
   7. 1 John 2:2 “And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.”

C. The plan was imperfect.
   1. God’s plan is to save men with the Word.
      a. Acts 20:32 “And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.”
b. Jam. 1:21 “Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.”

2. Thus, that Word is the perfect law of liberty; James 1:25 “But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth thence, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.”

3. That Word must be preached.
   a. Rom. 10:13-17 “For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. 14How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? 15And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things! 16But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report? 17So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”
   b. 1 Cor. 1:18, 21 “For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God. 21For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.”

D. The way was too narrow.
   1. The Lord taught that the way was narrow; Mat. 7:14 “Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.”
   2. But it is not so narrow that we cannot come to Christ.
      a. Mat. 11:28-30 “Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. 30For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”
      b. Rev. 22:17 “And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.”
   3. We must decide to surrender ourselves to Christ.

II. Why Men are Lost.
   A. Men are lost because of sin.
      1. Sin is that which separated man from God.
         a. Adam and Eve were separated from God because of sin; Gen. 3
         b. Isa. 59:1-2 “Behold, the LORD’S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: 2But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.”
      2. Sin’s wages are death.
         a. Death is a separation; Jam. 2:26 “For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.”
         b. Rom. 6:23 “For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”
         c. Jam. 1:14-15 “But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. 15Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.”
      3. All men commit sin.
         a. Rom. 3:23 “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;”
         b. Gal. 3:22 “But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe.”
      4. We are not lost because of what Adam and Eve did
         a. The doctrine of hereditary depravity.
         b. We are lost because of what we do and fail to do.
B. Refusal to surrender to the Lord.
1. Mat. 7:14 “Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.”
   a. Strait is the gate.
   b. Strait refers to a difficult passage like a narrow gorge between two rocks.
2. To follow Christ one must be willing to submit his life to the Master.
   a. Luke 9:23 “And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.”
   b. Luke 14:33 “So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.”
   c. Luke 9:62 “And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.”
   d. Rom. 12:1-2 “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. 2And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”
   e. Some are not willing to pay the price.
3. There are only two ways from which to choose.
   a. Mat. 6:24 “No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.”
   b. Mat. 12:30 “He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad.”
   c. While many would like a middle ground, there is none.
   d. Thus there are only two destinies from which to choose.
C. False teachers mislead the people.
1. Only the truth makes men free; John 8:32 “And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”
2. We are warned against false teachers.
   a. Mat. 7:15 “Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.”
   b. 2 Pet. 2:1-3 “But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. 2And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. 3And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.”
   c. 1 John 4:1 “Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.”
   d. 1 Tim. 4:1-2 “Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; 2Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;”
   e. 2 Tim. 4:3-4 “For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; 4And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.”
   f. Thus; Pro. 23:23 “Buy the truth, and sell it not; also wisdom, and instruction, and understanding.
   g. We are to be as the Bereans; Acts 17:11 “These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.”
3. Where is the authority for:
   a. Religious divisions.
      (1) John 17:20-21 “Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; that they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.”
      (2) Rom. 12:5 “So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.”
      (3) Christ died to establish His own church.
         (a) Mat. 16:18 “And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”
         (b) Acts 20:28 “Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.”
         (c) Not join the church of your choice.
   b. Sprinkling of infants.
      (1) Baptism is immersion.
         (a) Acts 8:38 “And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him.”
         (b) Col. 2:12 “Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.”
      (2) Only for those who can believe and repent.
         (a) Mark. 16:16 “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.”
         (b) Acts 2:38 “Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”
   c. Teaching the kingdom has not been established.
      (1) The kingdom was established in the first century.
         (a) Mark 9:1 “And he said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That there be some of them that stand here, which shall not taste of death, till they have seen the kingdom of God come with power.”
         (b) Col. 1:13 “Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:”
         (c) Rev. 1:9 “I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.”
      (2) Thus, Christ is now reigning as King.
         (a) Acts 2:33-35 “Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the Promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear. 33For David is not ascended into the heavens: but he saith himself, The Lord said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, 34Until I make thy foes thy footstool.”
         (b) 1 Cor. 15:24-25 “Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. 25For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet.”
   d. Once saved always saved.
      (1) 1 Cor. 9:27 “But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.”
      (2) Jam. 5:19-20 “Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; 20Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.”
(3) 2 Pet. 2:20-22 “For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. 21 For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. 22 But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, the dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire.”

D. Many try to guide themselves.

1. We cannot guide ourselves.
   a. Pro. 14:12 “There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.”
   b. Jer. 10:23 “O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.”
   c. Rom. 10:1-3 “Brethren, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved. 2 For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. 3 For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.”
   d. The principle of Deu. 12:8 still applies; “Ye shall not do after all the things that we do here this day, every man whatsoever is right in his own eyes.”

2. Example of Saul.
   a. Thought he was correct in persecuting the church.
   b. Acts 23:1 “And Paul, earnestly beholding the council, said, Men and brethren, I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day.”
   c. Yet, 1 Tim. 1:15 “This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.”

3. We must do the commands of Christ.
   a. Luke 6:46 “And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?”
   b. Heb. 5:9 “And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;”
   c. Rev. 22:14 “Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.”

E. Many delay their obedience to Christ.

1. One of Satan’s greatest tools is to get us to wait.
   a. He wants us to wait for a more convenient season.
   b. Acts 24:25 “And as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, Felix trembled, and answered, Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee.”

2. But the Scriptures teach:
   a. Pro. 29:1 “He, that being often reproved hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.”
   b. Psa. 90:12 “So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.”

Conclusion: Will you not submit yourselves to Christ by obeying His commands today; 2 Cor. 6:2 “(For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)”