

## Why Are People Lost?

### Introduction

1. Many will be lost.
  - a. Matthew 7:13, 14
  - b. 2 Thessalonians 1:6-9
2. Nothing the preachers, elders, or members say makes someone saved or lost.
3. Consider the Lord's teaching in Luke 15:3-32.
  - a. There are numerous pictures of peril.
  - b. Some even suggest that Luke 15:3-32 make up ONE parable (instead of three).

### I. Carelessness

- A. The Sheep (Luke 15:3-7)
  1. Carelessness of Shepherd
  2. Carelessness of the sheep itself
- B. The Coin (Luke 15:8-10)
  1. An inanimate object
  2. Sole carelessness of owner (others)
- C. Today
  1. Refusal to study (2 Timothy 2:15)
  2. Stewardship (1 Corinthians 4:2)

### II. Cares

- A. The younger son (Luke 15:12ff)
  1. Riotous living (v. 13)
  2. Galatians 5:19-21
  3. Elder brother knew (v. 30)
- B. The elder son (Luke 15:25ff)
  1. Jealousy and envy
  2. Where was his heart?
- C. Today
  1. Matthew 6:7, 33
  2. James 4:7, 8
  3. 1 Peter 5:7

### Conclusion

1. Sin takes one farther than he thought he would go. It keeps one longer than he thought he would stay.
2. "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9).

### On Preaching:

A mist in the pulpit does create a fog in the pew.

I would have every minister of the Gospel address his audience with the zeal of a friend, with the generous energy of a father, and with the exuberant affection of a mother. -Francois Fenelon

The Lord's Sermon on the Mount took only about 18 minutes to preach.

The best sermon is preached by the minister who has a sermon to preach and not by the man who has to preach a sermon.

True eloquence does not consist in speech...It must consist in the man, in the subject, and in the occasion. -Daniel Webster

Paul's preaching usually ended in a riot or in a revival. -Orin Philip Gifford

The preacher must have the heart of a lion, the skin of a hippopotamus, the agility of a greyhound, the patience of a donkey, the wisdom of an elephant, the industry of an ant, and as many lives as a cat.

I don't like to hear cut-and-dried sermons. When I hear a man preach, I like to see him act as if he were fighting bees. -Abraham Lincoln

## S-A-L-V-A-T-I-O-N

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The word "salvation" is used some forty-five times in the English New Testament, It means deliverance, and is descriptive of the grace of God. It was God's grace that sent forth His Son to Calvary's hill to die on the cross for you and me. The purpose of the bloodshed there is to offer salvation from eternal torment to all that would come to accept Christ as Lord and Savior.

So, God makes salvation possible through Christ, and we make it probable through our faith obedience. Salvation is the word that spells the difference between heaven and hell. Observe three questions posed in the New Testament with respect to the subject of salvation.

***Will there be few saved?*** Luke wrote, "Then said one unto him Lord, are there few that be saved?..." (Luke 13:23). Throughout history, God's people have always been in the minority. For instance, when God destroyed the world with a flood, only eight souls were saved--Noah, his wife, their three sons, and their wives. When God destroyed the city of Sodom, only three souls were saved--Lot, and his two daughters.

In answer to the question, the Bible teaches that on the Judgment day, few will be saved. Jesus said, "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide *is* the gate, and broad *is* the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait *is* the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, **and few there be that find it**" (Matt. 7:13-14).

***Who then will be saved?*** The universalist would answer the question, "Everyone will be saved." The moralist would answer the question, "All moral people will be saved." The denominationalist would answer the question, "All 'faith only' people will be saved." Our concern should be, who does God say will be saved? Jesus said, "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; **but he that doeth the will of my Father** which is in heaven" (Matt. 7:21). In answer to the question, the only people who will be saved are those who obey Gods word.

***What must I do to be saved?*** This is clearly the most important question that a man could ever ask. This question was asked three times in the book of Acts. The jailer asked it, and received the answer--"believe" (Acts 16:30-34). The people on the day of Pentecost asked it and received the answer--"repent and be baptized" (Acts 2:37-41). Saul of Tarsus asked it, and received the answer--"be baptized" (Acts 9:1-22; 22:1-16; 26:1-21). Who could question that these, having done what they were told, were saved? I dare say that no one could.

In answer to the question, I must do the same as those in the book of Acts in order to be saved. I must believe in Jesus as God's Son, just as these did. I must repent of my sins, just as these did. I must be baptized for the forgiveness of my sins, just as these did. When I do this, then I know that I am saved because I have done what they did to be saved.

Why do so many want to argue over what the Bible clearly sets forth as God's plan of salvation? This is not man's idea, it is Gods. Dear reader, will you not obey what God has plainly revealed to you in His word with respect to the salvation of your soul? For you see, salvation spells the difference between heaven and hell.