

Who Is Lost?
Pro 21:15-16
By Russell Earl

Thesis: I want to show the importance of understanding who is lost.

Intro: 1. Some questions are best answered by asking other questions.
2. Who is saved? This can also be answered by asking who is lost.

I. Who is lost?

A. The Person who does not follow God's Word.

1. Mankind often does things its own way, and fails (**Pro 14:12**).
2. When this happens many only dig in and rebel against the Lord (**Pro 19:3**), rather than repenting and obeying.

B. Those who seek to only please others or themselves are lost.

1. **Galatians 1:10** – when pleasing others is all that matters, the God no longer matters to you.
2. The fear of upsetting men has kept many from being saved, including those who know the truth (**Jn 12:42-43**).

II. What about those in a denomination?

A. Sincere and Zealous

1. There are many in denominations who are very sincere and zealous in their various religious efforts. They are kind, caring and helpful to many.
2. However, sincerity and being zealous in good works are not the things that makes a person a Christian (**Mt 15:7-8**).

B. Denominational plans of Salvation separate instead of unite.

1. Christ tells us that a person must be “born again” in order to see heaven (**Jn 3:2-5**)
 - a. To be born of water is to be baptized for the forgiveness of sins, which puts one into the kingdom of God. This is a part of the new birth. It is a single birth with two elements: water and the Spirit.
 - b. Those on Pentecost in Acts 2 repented and were baptized for the forgiveness of sins. And the Lord added them to the church (which is the kingdom). (**Acts 2:38,41,47**)

2. When one obeys the gospel one has been born again (anew, **Romans 6:4**).

C. Plans that differ from God's Commands are damnable doctrine.

1. False plans of salvation condemns a person to hell.
2. God's plan is the only plan that saves.
 - a. All others lead to destruction (**Pro 21:15-16**).

III. Lessons for Us Today

A. When we know who the lost are, we know who the saved are too.

1. Those who do not trust in man or themselves but put their trust in God are saved (**Ps 9:10**).
2. Selfishness & Pride leads man astray while a humble spirit will lead a person to God.

B. Salvation rests in the word of God, not in the words of Man.

1. **Matthew 15:5-6** – some have always attempted to change or ignore the commands of God.
2. We can rest assured that we are saved when rest our hopes on God's commands (**1 Jn 5:13**).

Application & Conclusion:

1. Those who are lost do not have to be lost.
2. Those who want salvation can have it, if they truly want it.
3. Full Invitation

Non-Christians must:

Hear – James 1:22, Romans 10:15,17

Believe – Jn 12:44, Jn 8:24, Mt 16:16

Repent – Luke 13:2-3

Confess – John 12:42, Romans 10:9

Be Baptized – 1 Pt 3:21, Acts 22:16, Col 2:11-12, Mk 16:16, Rom 6:3-4

Live faithfully – John 14:15, Rev 2:10

Christians must:

Repent & Pray: James 5:16, 1 John 1:9