

What does it mean to be Lost?

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Introduction: It is a difficult to see people as God sees them.

A. God tells us plainly there are two classes of people, the saved and the lost.

(1 Pt 4:17-18)

1. The focus of the coming of Christ was to save the lost. **(Lk 19:10)**
2. God wants everyone to be saved! **(1 Tim 2:4)**
3. Can we treat lightly that which has cost God so much?

B. A lost person is one who has unforgiven sin. **(Jn 8:24)**

1. Sin pays! The wages are death. **(Rom 3:23; 6:23)**
2. The sinner who has never become a Christian is lost.
3. The Christian who will not repent of his sins is lost. **(Acts 8:21-24)**
4. Many who think they are saved are not! **(Mt 8:10-12)**

I. You have a carnal mind

A. What is a carnal mind? **(Rom 8:5-8)**

1. The focus of your decisions is based upon your desires.
2. You can make good decisions but be motivated by the flesh. **(1 Cor 7:33)**

B. A carnal mind will lead you to destruction.

1. Satan is behind all carnality. **(Jn 12:31; 14:30)**
2. Satan is a powerful being whose goal is to deceive you. **(Jn 8:44)**

“Worldliness is not only doing what is forbidden but also wishing it were possible to do it. One of its distinctives is mental slavery to illegitimate pleasure. Worldliness twists values by rearranging their price tags.”

3. The tool that Satan uses is sin. Sin will cause you not to think straight. **(2 Thess 2:10-12)**
4. You often can see the change in a Christian when they give into carnal thinking. (Ex. A brother becomes involved in fornication or adultery/ becomes bitter towards Christians)
5. A carnal mind can see the truth and confidently resist it in stubbornness. **(1 Sam 15:23)** (Ex. The smoker who confronted a young preacher)

II. You do not have the help of God

A. Sin will cause God to turn away from you. **(Isa 59:1-2)**

1. God always acts upon principle. God will not hear the prayers of most people! **(1 Pt 3:12)**
2. God cannot have fellowship with those in their sin. **(Hab 1:13; 1 Jn 1:7)**

B. Do you realize how much you need God?

1. What will happen to you today? ... to your loved ones?
2. Have you ever faced issues beyond your control that you desperately wanted to go a certain way? (Ex. Operation, a time of danger, etc.)
3. A child of God has His providential care. **(Rom 8:28)**
4. Joseph knew that God would not forsake him. He saw this time and again! **(Gen 50:20)**
5. The care of God gives the Christian a peace that the world cannot have.

(Phil 4:6-7,9; Jn 14:27)

6. The person who cannot see this need is blinded by a carnal mind.

III. You are a “child of wrath.”

A. Do you understand what it means to face God? **(Eph 2:1-3)**

1. Even when men served God, His presence utterly humbled them. The first though that Isaiah had was concerning his own sin. **(Isa 6:5-7)**

2. I cannot fully describe the awesomeness of the judgment day. I do know that if you are in your sins there will be a dread and fear unlike anything you have ever experienced. **(Lk 23:28-30)**

3. The carnal mind takes these things lightly. Often they are blocked out, rarely are they ever meditated upon. Wake up!

4. When some complain of “negative preaching” they may be blocking out the bad news that they need to hear! This always must come before the good news.

(Rom 1:16, 18)

B. You grieve Christians who love you by staying in your sin.

1. If it were in their power other Christians would pull you out of the fire.

(Jude 22-23) (Ex. Nightmare about Emily)

2. Paul was so concerned about his countrymen that he would make any sacrifice to save them. **(Rom 10:1,9:1-3)**

3. You cannot know the pain experience by faithful Christians as you carelessly disregard the way of safety. **(Gal 4:19-20)**

4. One of the difficult things I have seen is the grief of Christians over a loved one who died unprepared.

IV. You are given an undeserved opportunity.

A. It is hard for any man to understand the love of God. **(Rom 5:6-8)**

1. How can someone see the love of God and harden their hearts? Many do.

(Rom 2:4-5)

2. If only men could see the individual and personal nature of the love of God! He cares for you! **(1 Pt 5:7; Lk 15:9-10)**

B. Do you know what it means to be without hope? **(Eph 2:12)**

1. Many have a false optimism. They think they can wait and make it in at the last moment.

2. Few of these people will make it. When you take this great opportunity and say: “no, not now.” You are hardened. In time it could become permanent.

(Eph 4:19; Lk 14:16-24)

C. Do you see the amazing value of the blood of Christ?

1. When that message no longer moves you, you are in trouble. **(Heb 10:29-30)**

2. For Christians this message has changed what is important to us. **(Rom 1:14; 1 Cor 10:31-33)**

3. The major reason liberalism in churches of Christ has been so successful is that we have moved away from the life changing message of the cross to the fulfilling of carnal desires.

Conclusion: How can you hear these things and not be moved? **(2 Cor 5:10-11)**