

WHO CAN ONE BLAME IF LOST?

Luke 19:10 -- For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.



Introduction

1. In Matthew 7:13-14, Jesus perhaps made the most startling statement of His ministry. Any way you read it, Jesus is saying that the vast majority of the world will be lost.
2. It is not an unreasonable statement when we think about it. Of the billions now living only a small percentage know about the true God or the Bible. Even in our own nation, the majority do not actively follow a religion based on God's Word, but follow creeds based on traditions and opinions of men.
3. When coming down to those that are striving to restore the New Testament church, many of these do not faithfully work to put the church first. So who can the majority blame for their lost state?

A. One Cannot Blame God

1. God has always been interested in man's salvation. Even before the foundation of the world
Ephesians 1:4 -- Just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him.
2. Even in the Garden, only one tree was forbidden and even after Adam and Eve sinned, God was still fair.
Genesis 3:15 -- And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, and you shall bruise him on the heel.
3. Even when man multiplied sin in the world and God had to destroy it, He still loved it, and gave a promise that would bless the world to come.
Genesis 12:3 -- And I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.
4. When God gave birth to the nation of Israel, He went all the way to preserve it:
 - He gave them Moses as their great leader.
 - He gave them the spiritual tribe of Levi to help with their religious needs.
 - He gave them a pattern for a tabernacle to properly worship in.
 - He gave them a special law to guide them.
 - Even in their rebellion, he gave them prophets and brought forth a Savior.
5. He preserved a remnant among the people so that they might continue on the earth and be a blessing to other nations.
6. God's love (John 3:16) engineered salvation and He sent them the gospel.
1 Timothy 2:3-4 -- This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.
Romans 1:16-17 -- For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith...

B. One Cannot Blame Christ

1. Jesus did all that could possibly be done. He left heaven to become flesh. He left riches for poverty.
John 1:14 -- And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

- 2 Corinthians 8:9** -- For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.
2. He came to taste of death for others.
Hebrews 2:9 -- But we do see Him who has been made for a little while lower than the angels, namely, Jesus, because of the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone.
 3. He didn't want to lose any (2 Peter 3:9).
 - He taught others how to follow Him to gain eternal life.
 - He taught them how to love others and what to hate.
 - He taught them good morals in families, as neighbors, and in business.
 - He taught them how to be good citizens in God's kingdom.

C. One Cannot Blame the Holy Spirit

1. The Holy Spirit was sent to insure that Jesus' teachings were preserved.
John 14:26 -- But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.
2. He guided the authors of the New Testament
2 Peter 1:21 -- For no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.
3. The Spirit was involved in the conversion of the first Christians.
Acts 2:33 -- There having been exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured forth this which you both see and hear.
Acts 2:38 -- And Peter said to them, "Repent and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
4. The Spirit has His part in the making of disciples for Christ.
Matthew 28:19 -- Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.
5. It is the Spirit that invites all sinners to salvation.
Revelation 22:17 -- And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come."...

D. One Must Blame Self

1. So who is to blame if one is lost? One can only blame themselves!
2. God provides salvation (Titus 2:11), but He does not force the sinner to be saved.
3. There were souls lost at Pentecost, but it was because they would not receive the word and baptism.
Acts 2:40-41 -- And with many other words he solemnly testified and kept on exhorting them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation!" So then, those who had received the word were baptized: and there were added that day about three thousand souls.
4. Many are still lost because they refuse to obey the gospel that can save their souls. (2 Corinthians 4:3-6)
2 Thessalonians 1:8 -- Dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.
5. Many are still lost because they choose not to serve righteousness, but sin.
Romans 6:13 -- And do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.