

Today's Order of Worship

Announcements: Greg Lowery

Song Leader: Josh Berryhill

Opening Prayer: Arlen Foss

On the Table: Head - Greg Lowery
Servers - Billy Box
Gary Addison
Eddy Dickinson

Closing Prayer: Charles Berryhill

Preparing the Lord's Supper Lellie Dickinson

Weekly Service Times

Sunday

Bible Study 10:00 am

Morning Worship 10:45 am

Evening Worship 5:00 pm

Wednesday

Bible Study 7:00 pm

Visit Our Website

www.brilliantchurchofchrist.org

Elders: Deacons: Al Corkren / Josh Berryhill

Leonard Key / David Key

Billy Box / Eddy Dickinson

Minister: Greg Lowery

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Am I Sliding Away



*The
Brilliant
Beacon*



What It Means To Be Lost – 2nd Thess. 1:7-9

By E.R. Brannan

The young church at Thessalonica was suffering bitter persecution. This had been true from the beginning for they had “received the word in much affliction” (1st Thess. 1:6). Paul promised rest to the afflicted Thessalonians and warned that the afflictors would receive affliction at the revelation of the Lord Jesus from Heaven.

Lost! The very sound of the word chills the marrow and terrifies the heart. Listen to the plaintive cry that falls from the trembling lips of the weeping mother, “My child is lost”. Feel the gripping fear of the helmsman who without chart or compass realizes he is lost on the restless sea. Even more, feel the choking in the throat and the cold sweat on the brow of the lone pilot who with an empty gas tank and covering storm clouds searches frantically for the airport. Yet, none of these feelings can in a real sense compare with the horror of being lost eternally. What does it mean to be lost?

It Means That Love Is Frustrated

A loving God created man in his own image to share in his own nature and being. Man was given everything necessary to his wellbeing in Eden, and he had every encouragement from heaven to do ‘right. The Lord wanted from man the service of love, and love cannot be forced. To be able to offer loving service, man must be free to decide whom he will serve. God took this calculated risk when he made man.

Man was enticed by Satan to disobey God. The angels must have wept! So far as I know, God never gave angels the opportunity to repent. Those that sinned were cast down to hell and committed to pits of darkness to be reserved unto judgment (2nd Peter 2:4). So far as angels knew, rebellious man must suffer the same fate as the rebel angels.

God’s love for man did not cease with man’s fall. He gave intimation in Eden that there was hope for man, for one day the seed of the woman would bruise the head of the serpent (Gen. 3:15). Paul implies in Ephesians 1:4 that the redemption of man in Christ was planned before God laid the foundation of the world.

THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS

Don Lawrence: surgery for block arteries went well but discovered that he has blockage to his kidneys, please be praying that recover goes well from recent surgery and that the blockage to his kidneys can be removed

Mary Rainey: she has bone cancer throughout her body, please be praying for her and her family

Maylene McWhirter: her blood gases are showing signs of myeloid leukemia, please be praying for her and her family

Jack Waldon: {Linda’s Brother-In-Law} he is under hospice care, please keep him and his family in your prayers

Billy Lee: {Carolyn’s Brother} diagnosed with renal failure, please keep him in your prayers

Jimmie Ann Hardy {Carolyn’s Sister}: is back in the nursing home in Guin, please continue to pray that her health continues to improve

Connie Autrey: recent scans show that the cancer is shrinking, please continue to pray that the treatments will continue to work in defeating her cancer

Doug Roberts: is in the nursing home in Hamilton recovering from a recent stroke, please keep him and his family in your prayers

Bobby Sanderson: is back home and continuing to improve, please pray that this improvement continues and that he has no further problems

Arthur Ewing: has lung cancer, please pray that he will be able to receive treatment that can help him

Robeana Green: has been diagnosed with cancer, please be praying that with treatments that this cancer can be defeated

Upcoming Events

Today	Nursing Home	2:00 pm
October 21 st	Fellowship Meal	
October 21 st – 24 th	Our Gospel Meeting {Guest Speaker: Roy Williams}	
October 21 st	Bible Bowl {Whites Chapel}	2:00 pm

THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS

Angie Ganey Gardner: she has been diagnosed with stage 3 breast cancer, please pray that this cancer will be treatable

Larry Harris: has been diagnosed with lung cancer and will be taking treatments, please pray that the treatments will be successful in defeating this cancer

Amy Weeks {Donna’s Niece}: has asked for prayers to help overcome addictions, please pray that she will turn to God for help and strength

Dan Treas: is in the nursing home for rehab, please pray he has a good recovery

Through both the Patriarchal and the Mosaical dispensations, God showed by animal sacrifices that blood and substitution were involved in man’s redemption. These sacrifices prepared man to accept the supreme sacrifice of the “Lamb of God” (John 1:36). “Him who knew no sin he made to be sin on our behalf; that we might become the righteousness of God in Him” (2nd Cor. 5:21).

God’s boundless love that prompted him to give his Son for a wicked world is beyond our comprehension. Paul expressed a well known fact when he wrote, “For scarcely for a righteous man will one die” (Rom. 5:7). We praise the nobility of one who will give his life for a beloved friend. “But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners Christ died for us” (Rom. 5:8).

When a sinner is lost, the sacrificial love of both God and Christ is frustrated. The same divine restraint that kept God from intervening when man reached for the forbidden fruit in Eden keeps God from forcing the sinner to accept the grace proved by the blood of Christ. “Though he was a Son, yet learned obedience by the things which he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became unto all them that obey him the author of eternal salvation” (Heb. 5:8-9).

It Means That Justice Is Served

The victorious in heaven praise God with the words, “Righteous and true are thy ways” (Rev. 15:3). David wrote, “For Jehovah is righteous; he loveth righteousness” (Ps.11:7). God’s righteousness demands that justice be served. God cannot be just if he allows sin to go unpunished. The certainty of punishment has been one of the greatest forces to restrain the evil impulses of man.

God has two powerful means of bringing the stubborn will of man into submission. There is the great motivating power of the love and goodness of God. “For the love of Christ constraineth us” (2nd Cor. 5:14). John points out we learn to love by knowing the love of God (1st John 4:19). Paul wrote, “The goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance” (Rom. 2:4). The drawing power of the cross is tremendous (John 12:32).

Some hearts are too tough to be touched by the tenderness of love. It takes the shocking realization that eternal punishment awaits the rebellious sinner. Jonah’s cry of impending doom, “Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown,” brought all from king to peasant to repentance in sackcloth and ashes (Jonah 3:4-6). Jesus warned Chorazin and Bethsaida it would be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon in judgment than for them (Luke 10:13-14). Paul called on the people of Athens to repent “inasmuch as he hath appointed a day in which he will judge the world in righteousness” (Acts 17:30-31). In our teaching we must imitate Paul by showing both “The goodness and the severity of God” (Rom. 11:22).

God warned Adam not to eat of the forbidden fruit, “Lest ye die” (Gen. 3:3). Ever since, God has warned, “The wages of sin is death” (Rom. 6:23). God would not be honest and just if he failed to punish sinners. The punishment of impenitent sinners makes us know, “God is not mocked, for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap” (Gal. 6:7). Yes, justice is served when rebellious sinners are lost.

It Means The Sinner Is Ruined

Life is no bed of roses. Often bitter trials are experienced. Financial reverses may make us concerned about obtaining our next meal. Sickness or accident can leave us crippled and unable to care for ourselves. The disloyalty of trusted loved ones can leave us broken hearted. These are trying experiences, but they cannot compare with the horrors of hell. “What is a man profited if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul?” (Matt. 16:26). Imagine yourself on the bleak, barren shores of eternity, lost, and answer the question of Jesus, “What will a man give in exchange for his soul?”

Never has mortal felt pain like the suffering in hell. There can be heard the weeping and gnashing of teeth. Many like the rich man are crying, “I am in anguish in this flame” (Luke 16:24). In anticipation of such, sinners cry to the rocks and mountains, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb” (Rev. 6:16). Jesus said, pluck out your eye, cut off your offending hand or foot rather than go to hell. Hell is described as a lake of fire and brimstone. Who has not felt the intense pain from just a small burn. The pain of hell is compounded by the darkness of the region. Pain seems more unbearable in the night. This pain never ceases for “they have no rest day and night” (Rev. 14:11).

There is also the terrible loneliness of hell. Millions are there, but each is so engrossed in his own suffering, he has no thought for another. Man was made with a restless heart that could find rest only in the bosom of his Maker. In hell man is forever separated from his Maker. The final decree was “depart from me, ye cursed, into the eternal fire which is prepared for the devil and his angels” (Matt. 25:41).

Then, there is the regret and remorse. One of the most painful things that Abraham said to the rich man was, “Son, remember” (Luke 16:25). Memory is keenly alive in hell and will stab the consciousness with thoughts of wasted years and spurned opportunities. No one will be in hell who had no opportunity to escape it.

Perhaps, the worst thing about hell is the utter hopelessness and despair. If the suffering, loneliness, and regret could be for a million years, there would be hope. The scriptures offer no hope to the ruined in hell. The fire is eternal (Matt. 25:41). The punishment is eternal (Matt. 25:46). “Their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched” (Mark 9:48). “The smoke of their torment goeth up for ever and ever” (Rev. 14:11). As long as the righteous are in heaven, so long are the wicked in hell (Matt. 25:46).

Being lost is such a tragedy. Christ died to prevent it, but only man’s obedience can fulfill love’s desire.

The Spiritual Sword, “Grace, Law, And Love”, vol. 7, no. 2, January 1976, p. 29-31.