

# WHAT IF I AM LOST?

Matthew 25:31-32,46

## INTRODUCTION:

- A. Some people don't like to use the word "lost" regarding the eternal destiny of mankind.
  - 1. A "Christ-less eternity."
  - 2. Spend eternity "without God."
- B. The fact of the matter is that some ARE going to be lost eternally in torment.
- C. What should we do about it?
  - 1. First, make sure that your soul is right with God.
  - 2. Second, tell your family and friends the way to heaven.
- D. Let's study about what it means to be lost:

## I. WHAT WILL IT BE LIKE IF MY SOUL IS LOST?

- A. There will be **FIRE**.
  - 1. It is described as a lake of fire, **Revelation 20:15**.
    - a. We know how refreshing a lake of cool water feels on a hot day.
    - b. Can you imagine a huge lake filled from top to bottom with burning fire?
  - 2. Burning with brimstone, (Revelation 21:8- a stench like burning sulphur.
  - 3. Where the worm does not die and the fire is not quenched." **Mark 9:43-44**.
    - a. These words are a quotation from **Isaiah 66**.
    - b. Worm does not die: as the slain bodies of enemies would be heaped upon one another and decompose as worms would live as long as there were carcasses to be devoured.
    - c. Fire is not quenched: fire burning the above mentioned bodies would burn a long time.
  - 4. This is possibly a reference to the valley of Hinnon near Jerusalem, **v.43**.
    - a. In this valley there was garbage, waste, the bodies of criminals, a place of human sacrifices, maggots abounded, etc.
    - b. The stench was unbearable.
    - c. According to Jewish tradition, it was called the "mouth of hell."
    - d. Hebrew word transliterated into Greek was "geenna" (or gehenna, the word Jesus used for "hell" 11 times.
- B. There will be outer **DARKNESS**, a place without light, **Matthew 8:12**.
  - 1. "Sons of the kingdom" were the Jews who had first been offered the kingdom of God and had rejected it.
  - 2. "Outer darkness:"
    - a. "Blackness of darkness" referred to in Jude 13.
    - b. The "gloom of darkness" in **2 Peter 2:17**.
  - 3. Imagine the blackness and gloom of total darkness.

- C. There will be **WEeping AND GNASHING OF TEETH**, **Matthew 8:12**
  - 1. Have you ever been to a hospital or nursing home and heard someone cry out and wail constantly? It is very unnerving.
  - 2. "Gnashing teeth": Grinding teeth together *IN PAIN*.
  - 3. "Weeping and gnashing of teeth" denotes the extreme suffering these will experience.
- D. There will be PHYSICAL and MENTAL **TORMENT**. **Luke 16:19-31**.
  - 1. Not just discomfort - real, lasting pain, as the rich man suffered.
  - 2. I hate to see anyone suffering, don't you?
  - 3. There is the sound of people crying out for just one drop of water to cool their tongue, **Luke 16:24**.
  - 4. We hear people pleading for one to be sent back to earth to warn family and friends, **Luke 16:27**.
- E. There are some things that will NOT be there:
  - 1. No flowers.
  - 2. No little children.
  - 3. No smiles, no laughter.
  - 4. No joy, no happiness.
  - 5. No kindness, no compassion.

## II. WHO IS GOING TO BE LOST?

- A. First, there will be **MULTITUDES** of people.
  - 1. Those that enter the broad way to destruction, **Matthew 7:13**.
  - 2. Most people who have ever lived will be there.
  - 3. But that will be of no comfort to you.
- B. There will be **WICKED** people of every generation:
  - 1. Adulterers, fornicators, etc., **Galatians 5:19-21**.
  - 2. Those who are lustful, **Matthew 5:28; 2 Pet 2:14**.
  - 3. Murderers, whoremongers, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, **Revelation 21:8**.
  - 4. Homosexuals, sodomites, thieves, covetous, drunkards, etc. **I Corinthians 6:9,10**.
  - 5. Certainly we would expect these people and those like them to be present as we take our tour of Hell.
- C. There will be those who **REFUSE TO BELIEVE** in God.
  - 1. "He that comes to God must believe that He is," **Hebrews 11:6**
  - 2. Every atheist who dies in that condition will be present in Hell.
  - 3. Certainly we would expect to find Atheists there.
- D. There will those who have **REFUSED TO OBEY** the Gospel of Christ. **2 Thessalonians 1:7-9**.
  - 1. Notice that Jesus is coming back in flaming fire. Cf. what we have already seen on our tour of hell.
  - 2. Vengeance will be upon two groups:
    - a. Know not God: those who are strangers to Him.
    - b. Obey not the Gospel: any who reject the message of God's Word.

3. All who continue to turn their back upon God's invitation will be there.
- E. There will be those who have *FALLEN AWAY* from God and returned to the world.
  1. You have become estranged from Christ, you who attempt to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace. *Galatians 5:4*.
  2. Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, 20 let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins. *James 5:19-20*.
- G. *NOW -- LOOK CLOSELY*.
  1. Do you see *YOURSELF*?
  2. Do you see *a son or a daughter* who will be there because of your influence?
  3. Do you see *others* to whom you had an opportunity to mention Jesus, but never did?

### III. HOW LONG WILL IT LAST?

"And these will go away into EVERLASTING punishment, but the righteous into eternal life." *Matthew 25:46*.

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