

Lost and Found

If there was something that you had that was priceless and, if for some reason it became lost, to what extent would you go to find it? There have been news stories of how a woman accidentally through her engagement ring in the trash and that trash was taken to a landfill. When she discovered what she had done, she contacted the trash removal company and, the company actually had people go to the landfill where the trash was dumped and begin to go through it in search of the ring. Because of their determination, the ring was found.

Did you know that your eternal soul is priceless beyond measure? You see, when God created man {the human race}, He breathed into man the breath of life. {Genesis 2:7} That first person was Adam in the Garden of Eden. Adam, and later Eve were innocent and sinless people at that time. God had given Adam specific instructions which included NOT eating from a certain tree and, if he did, he would die. {Genesis 2:17} Well, Adam disobeyed God and he did eat from that tree {Genesis 3:6} and, when he did, he immediately died spiritually. The Bible, God's Word, talks about three kinds of death: spiritual, physical, and the second death which is the lake of fire referenced in the book of Revelation {last book of the Bible}. The moment Adam disobeyed God and became spiritually dead, he then had a sin nature and, this sin nature has been passed along to the entire human race since then. As a result, we are all born with a sin nature {Romans 5:12} and from that nature we commit the various acts of sin. If we say that we do not have a sin nature, then we are just deceiving ourselves {1 John 1:8} because God's Word clearly says that, "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God;" {Romans 3:23} ALL of humanity is lost and not looking for God. As is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God." {Romans 3:10-11}

The good news is that God has come looking for us because, "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." {2 Peter 3:9} It is NOT the desire of God that any person should die and go to hell; He created us, He loves us, and He wants to save us. It is because of His love that we read Bible verses like these: "For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost." {Luke 19:10} "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." {Romans 5:8} "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." {John 3:16} "This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners;. . ." {1 Timothy 1:15} The only way a lost sinner can be forgiven and saved is by repenting of sin and, by faith alone {no works of any kind will do} in the shed blood of Jesus Christ as the atonement for our sin, and trust Him as personal Saviour. "But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life." {Titus 3:4-6} God's salvation is all of grace without works of any kind; "For by grace are ye saved through faith, and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast." {Ephesians 2:8-9}

Yes, we were lost but God came looking for us. Through the person of Jesus Christ and, by trusting Him as personal Saviour, we can say that we were found. "And ye that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled" {Colossians 1:21} Those who repent of sin and trust in what Jesus Christ did on the Cross of Calvary {He shed His innocent blood and died to pay the sin debt} are not perfect people; they are just sinners saved by grace with God's promise that they are forgiven. "And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God." {1 John 5:11-13} "We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord." {2 Corinthians 5:8}

Lost and found - what will it be for you my friend? Will you remain lost or will you yield to Jesus Christ as trust Him your personal Saviour and be found? It is my prayer that you will, and this is the reason this pamphlet was written.

~Richard A. Ciarrocca/2017

All Scripture references are KJV