

Lost Religious Men

Luke 18:9-14

Lost Religious Men

- 1. You can be religious and be lost! To avoid this, learn from religious people who were lost, and then apply the remedies to be saved.
 - Don't trust your religious tradition, **Luke 3:7-9**

I. SAUL: ZEALOUS BUT STILL LOST Acts 22:3-4; Galatians 1:13-14

- **A. Religious zeal without knowledge will not save you**
Acts 22:3; Galatians 1:14; Romans 10:1-3.
 - 1. Much learning, but not in truth (theological seminary; PhDs...).
 - 2. Religious training not enough to save!

I. SAUL: ZEALOUS BUT STILL LOST Acts 22:3-4; Galatians 1:13-14

- **B. A good conscience does not save, Acts 23:1.**
 - 1. Thought he was serving God, Acts 26:9.
 - 2. An untaught conscience can deceive us in regards to salvation! 1 Timothy 1:13

I. SAUL: ZEALOUS BUT STILL LOST Acts 22:3-4; Galatians 1:13-14

- **C. Remedy: Apply zeal in the right direction, Acts 22:16; Philippians 3:4-8.**
 - 1. When religiously zealous man learns truth, he must use his zeal to obey gospel, Romans 10:3.
 - 2. Baptized / wash away sins

II. CORNELIUS: A MORAL MAN LOST Acts 10:1-2, 22; 11:14

- **A. His outstanding moral character did not remove his sins.**
 - 1. Moral purity can only save us if we never sin! **Romans 3:23; 6:23**
 - 2. God calls on us to be morally pure, **Ephesians 5:3-11; 1 Peter 2:11-12.**
 - 3. But, *present* morality does not forgive *past* sins.

II. CORNELIUS: A MORAL MAN LOST

Acts 10:1-2, 22; 11:14

- B. *Remedy*: **Combine** proper **obedience** with **moral** life, **Acts 10:43, 33-35, 48; 11:14, 18.**
 - 1. Gospel will save the moral man through faith, **Acts 10:43 (11:14).**
 - 2. Must repent and work right. (**Acts 10:35**) – Baptized (**10:48**), **11:18.**
 - 3. Faith, repentance, and baptism.

III. PHARISEES: DECEIVED IN SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS

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- A. A **warning** against **self-righteousness**, **Matthew 23:3-12.**
 - 1. Don't exalt self over others, **Luke 18:14 (Romans 12:16).**
 - 2. Don't say but not do, **Matthew 23:3 (Matthew 15:7-8).**
 - 3. Don't bind men's traditions, **Matthew 23:4 (Colossians 2:22-23).**
 - 4. Don't act to be seen by men, **Matthew 23:5 (Matthew 6:2-4).**
 - 5. Don't seek honor from men, **Matthew 23:6-10 (John. 12:42-43).**

III. PHARISEES: DECEIVED IN SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS

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- B. *Remedy*: **Humble** yourself before God and men, **Matthew 23:12 (James 4:6-10).**
 - 1. God gives us the chance to humble ourselves; if we do not, God will humble us! **Luke 18:14.**
 - 2. Humble heart obeys the truth in order to become the kind of person God wants, **Matthew 23:27-28.**

CONCLUSION

- 1. We can be religious and be lost!
- 2. To be saved, we must have: Zeal, morality, and full obedience coupled with humility.
- 3. Only Jesus can save you, **Acts 4:12** (H-B-R-C-B ... Saved). Be zealous and repent (**Revelation 3:19**); be faithful to Jesus (**Revelation 2:10**).