

My Responsibility To The Lost

2 Corinthians 4:1-4

The God Of "This World"

- ▶ Spiritual dominion where Satan rules.
 - 2 Corinthians 4:4 "in whom the **god of this world** hath blinded the minds of the unbelieving, that the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should not dawn (upon them)."
 - Ephesians 2:2 "wherein ye once walked according to the course of this world, according to the **prince of the powers of the air**, of the spirit that now worketh in the sons of disobedience".
 - cf. Romans 6:12ff The world of Satan is a matter of service rather than location.

Contrast and Conflict

The world has subjected itself to the rule of Satan.

- ▶ Between Christ and Satan there can be no peace or compromise. Matthew 12:30; John 8:44
- ▶ There is no middle ground. James 4:4; John 15:18-19

What Is My Responsibility To The Lost?

- ▶ "My"
 - Individual. Romans 14:12; 2 Corinthians 5:10; cf. 2 Timothy 2:2
- ▶ "Responsibility" - Matthew 25:15,19; Luke 12:47
 - "Liable to be called on to answer."
(Webster)

The Lost Consist Of Three Categories

Those Who Have Never Heard The Gospel

- Apostles to go preach. Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15-16
 - Scattered disciples preached. Acts 8:4; 11:19-20
- ▶ Note: Romans 10:13-17; Ezekiel 3:18

The Lost Consist Of Three Categories

Those who have heard the gospel but have not obeyed.

- Exhorted obedience. Acts 2:40-41
- Example of Paul. Acts 7:58; 22:16
 - Paul resided in Jerusalem when the gospel was first being preached. Acts 26:4-5
- Timothy to exhort with longsuffering. 2 Timothy 4:2; cf. 2 Peter 3:9
- Husbands influenced by wives over a period of time. 1 Peter 3:1

The Lost Consist Of Three Categories

Those who have obeyed and have become unfaithful.

- Returned to the world. 2 Peter 2:20; Hebrews 6
 - Demas. 2 Timothy 4:10; cf. Colossians 4:14 Philemon 24
 - Simon. Acts 8:23
- Convert. James 5:19-20
- Restore. Galatians 6:1
- Care. 1 Corinthians 12:25

Must View **The Lost** As ...

- Dead in sin. Ephesians 2:1ff
- Without hope. Ephesians 2:12
 - All men are sinners. Romans 3:9, 23
 - Sin separates from God. Isaiah 59:1-2
 - If die in sin – lost. Romans 6:23; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9
 - Reason Jesus came to earth. Luke 19:10

Must View **The Gospel** As The Message Of Salvation

- Power unto salvation. Romans 1:16-17
- How we are saved. 1 Corinthians 15:1-4
- Peter's sermons to the Jews – salvation from sin. Acts 2,3,4.
- Peter's sermon to the Gentiles. Acts 10:34-48

Must View **The Gospel** As The Message Of Salvation

- Paul's sermon in Antioch of Pisidia. Acts 13:16-41
- Paul's sermon on Mars Hill. Acts 17:22-31

The Gospel **Changes Lives**

- The ignorant. Acts 2:23; 3:17
- Saul of Tarsus. Acts 8:3; 9:1-2; 26:6; 1 Timothy 1:12ff; Philippians 3:3ff
- Corinthians. Acts 18:8; 1 Corinthians 6:9ff
- Ephesians. Acts 19:18-20

The God Of This World ... 2 Corinthians 4:3-4

- Blinds the minds of the unbelieving.
- Hides the light of the gospel.
- Causes people to perish.

What Is My Responsibility
To The Lost?

1. Those who have never heard the truth. *"Go preach ..."*
2. Those who have heard it and not obeyed. *"Exhort them ..."*
3. Those who have obeyed and then erred from the truth. *"Restore ..."*

What Is My Responsibility
To The Lost?

Let us recognize the value of a man's soul and what it means to be LOST!

Then let us go forth *"bearing precious seed"* knowing that we shall *"doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him"* (Psalms 126:6).