

# Who Can You Blame If You Are Lost?

It seems that people always want to pass the buck. They want blame everyone and anything they can as long as they are not to blame. Kids are good at this because when someone gets hurt or something gets broken what do they do — they try blame it on the other person or on a dog or cat. Men and women do this as well. When the man misplaces something and can't find it he might blame the wife or the kids for hiding whatever he is looking for. We see this in politics. No one wants to be the blame so they always point their finger at someone else and many times they find a scapegoat to take the attention off themselves. But the main question I want to look is who you can blame if you are lost spiritually?

First of we need to recognize that there are only two groups of people today: the saved and the lost. There are two roads a person can take in life. Matthew 7:13-14 says, "Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it." Jesus also makes it clear that few will find themselves on that narrow road and this is not an unreasonable statement when you consider the billions of people who do not know God or obey God's perfect will. Even when you look at our own nation the percentage of those who know God and who obey His word without adding or taking away from it are very few. This means the billions of people are going to lost, but again the question becomes who are they going to blame for being lost?

## **You Cannot Blame God**

From the beginning of time, before God even made humankind, He was interested in making our salvation possible. We can get this idea from what Paul wrote in Ephesians 1:3-6: "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He has made us accepted in the Beloved."

As you can see it has always been in God's plan that we would be able to be saved. For instance, when Adam and Eve were in the garden, He loved them and set up the perfect paradise for them to live. He let them have access to every single thing in the garden except one tree.

Now if God had wanted to be unfair from our perspective, He could have given them one tree to eat from and could made everything else off limits but He did not. Of course we know that Eve, with a little encouragement from the serpent, choose of her own free will to eat of the tree and to offer it to Adam and he ate it of his own free will. They found themselves kicked out of the garden and now they would no longer live forever and would eventually die. But, even after Adam and Eve disobeyed God's word, He wanted

them to be saved and He gave us our first glimpse that He would be sending His son Jesus to the earth for all humankind. In Genesis 3:15, the Bible says, "And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."

If God had not cared about our salvation, He would have simply destroyed Adam and Eve and you and I would not be here today. If God did not care about us, He would not have loved us enough to create us with a free will.

Now as the human race began to multiply, unfortunately the mass majority of them decided to turn their back on God and instead they were corrupt and turned to sin (Genesis 6:6-7). So God brought forth a flood that destroyed everything except the eight righteous souls and the animals He preserved on the ark. Again you can see God's desire to save His creation because during the years Noah was building the ark, he was also warning people to turn away from their sin but no one listened or cared except Noah's family (2 Peter 2:5). From Noah's son Shem, God began a special race, the Hebrew race, which of course began with a promise to Abraham (Genesis 12:2-3).

God had chosen this special nation to be His people and He did everything He could to make sure His new nation would honor the covenant they had made with Him. He gave them a great leader, Moses, and He divided the children of Israel up into tribes and He made the Levite's tribe to be charge of helping the people maintain spiritual faithfulness. Even though His special nation was constantly rebelling against Him, God sent prophets to foretell the coming of the Messiah that would save those that would obey Him. Even though ten of the twelve tribes became so evil that God gave them up to the world, He was still able to preserve the tribe of Judah from which the Savior would come. You see God's love is what motivates Him to save the lost. Peter lets us know just how much God wants us to be saved and not lost in 2 Peter 3:9: "The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance." So, there is no way you can blame God for being lost.

### **You Cannot Blame Jesus**

He cannot be blamed because He did not leave one stone unturned to make salvation possible for all. Jesus left His heavenly home and became flesh. He went from riches to poverty!

Why did Jesus give up all these riches to become poor? Was it because He wanted to take a vacation or to simply experience what it felt like to be human? No! His whole purpose for coming to the earth was to provide salvation for all of humankind. In Hebrews 2:9, the Hebrew writer tells us, "But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone."

Knowing this was Jesus' mission, how in the world could anyone ever point their finger at Jesus and blame Him for being lost? Every step He took and every pain He suffered

was motivated by love for a lost humanity. Therefore, no one can ever point their finger at Jesus and blame Him for being lost.

### **You Cannot Blame The Holy Spirit**

We may spend several hours studying the Holy Spirit and declare that there are many things we do not understand about Him, but there is one thing that is crystal clear: the Holy Spirit is one of the persons in the Godhead and He is concerned about the salvation of lost humanity. As Jesus made preparations to die and return to His Father, He promised His apostles the coming of the Holy Spirit. In John 14:26, Jesus tells His apostles, "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you."

Sure enough, just as Jesus promised in Acts 2 on the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came like a mighty rushing wind and it filled the whole house where the apostles were sitting. This brought a large crowd together and Peter and the other apostles preached the gospel for the very first time. All the nations represented could understand them in their own language because of the power of the Holy Spirit. It was because of the help of the Holy Spirit that made that such a successful day for salvation because 3,000 souls received the message that day with gladness and were baptized in the name of Jesus for the remission of their sins. That day would have never come and the church would have never begun if the Holy Spirit had not come as promised.

Of course the Holy Spirit's work does not end with this one event but His work continues on throughout the spreading of gospel to the whole world. When Jesus sent His apostles to make disciples by baptizing them He commanded them to baptize people in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. This command shows us that the Holy Spirit is interested in our salvation. We can also see His interest in our salvation in the fact that He guided the authors of the Bible on what to write in the word of God so we can know what we must do to be saved and to be pleasing to God: "... for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God" (2 Peter 1:21). How could we ever know about the Savior, the gospel, and how to be saved through the written word without the work of Holy Spirit? Therefore, there is no way we can blame the Holy Spirit if we are lost!

### **You Cannot Blame The Devil**

Some people want to blame the devil for being lost and it certainly is the case that the devil wants us. Peter wrote, "Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour" (1 Peter 5:8). But we need to understand that just like with God, we have a choice of whether we will listen to the devil and follow him. He cannot force us to serve him. Just like in the Garden of Eden, the devil did not force Eve to eat from the forbidden tree; he just tempted her to do so.

So the only person you can blame for being lost today is you. We have received God's full instructions on how to be saved in His word and so we are without excuse and we

cannot plead ignorance. In Acts 17:30-31, the holy scriptures tell us, "Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead." So there you have it. The only person you can blame for being in a lost state and following a wide road to destruction is you. The question then is if you are lost, what are you going to do about it? Are you going to remain on the wide road or are you going to decide that you are no longer going to follow the devil? Make your choice today.

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