

The
FLOW
Adult CURRICULUM

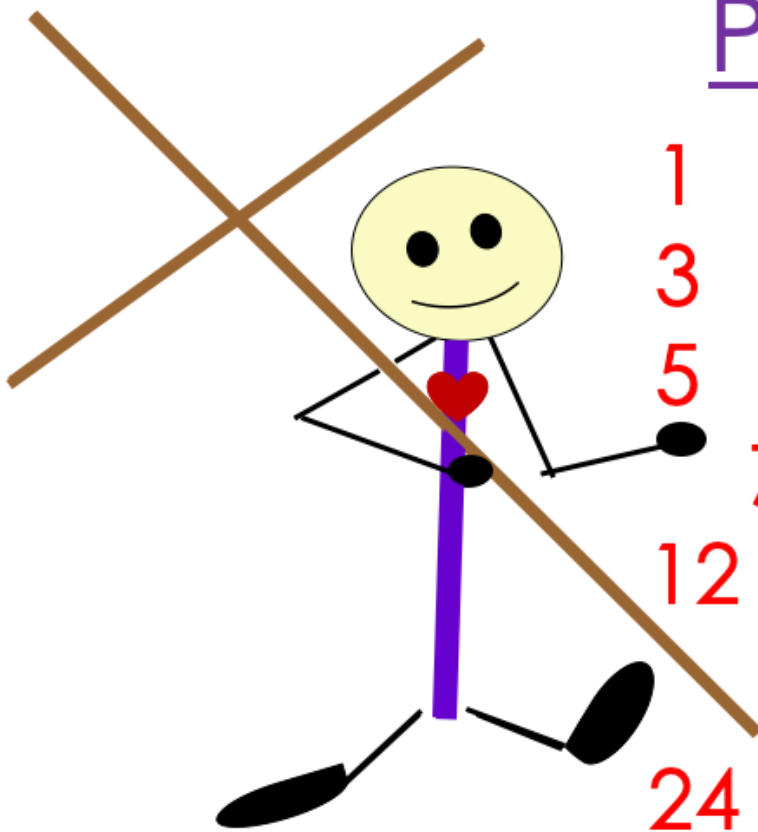
#5

LOST

Luke 19:10

(Come And See Christianity book pages 20-25)

The FLOW

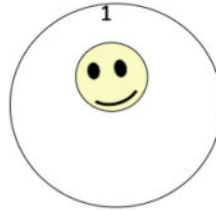


PREVIEW:

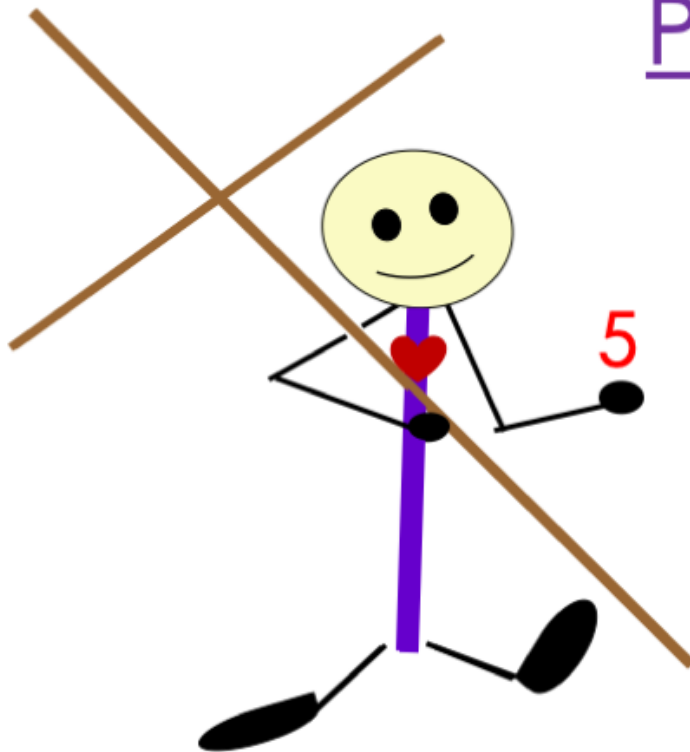
- 1 Design
- 3 Divisions
- 5 Disciples
- 7 Details
- 12 Disciplines
- 24 Distinctives

SECTION THREE: 5 Disciples

The
HEAD

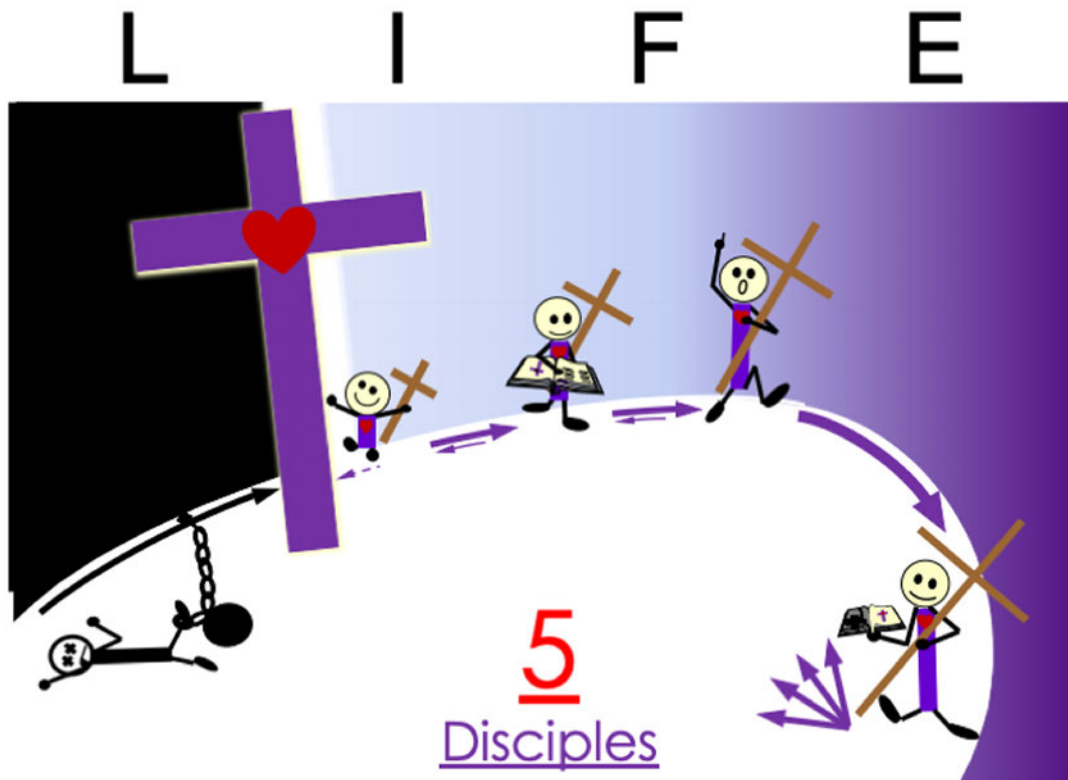


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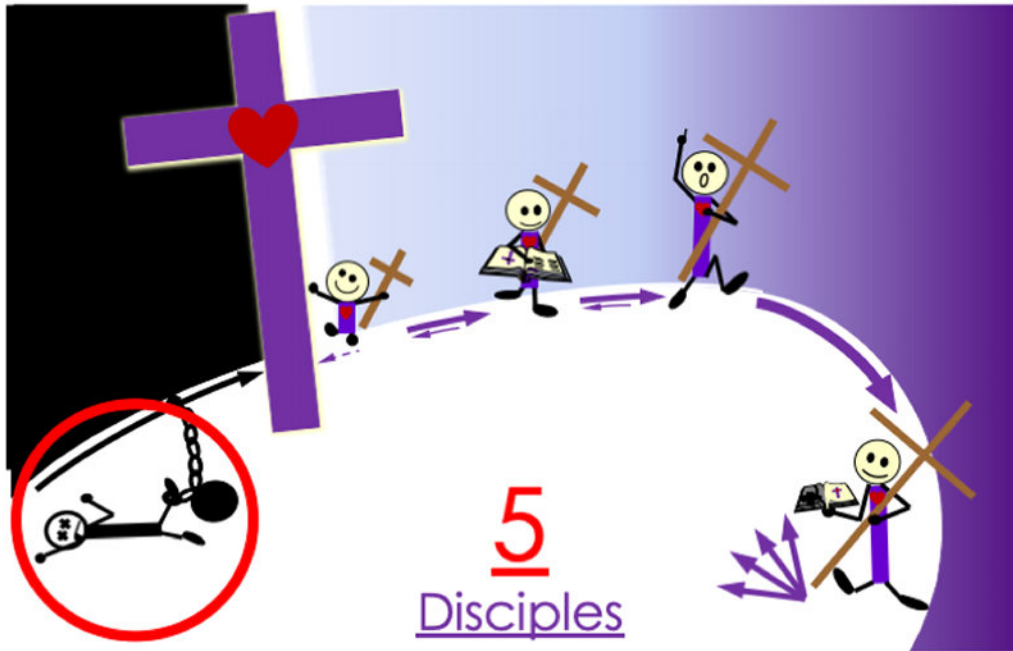
PREVIEW:

5 Disciples



5 DISCIPLES: The world is made up of 5 different types of people (a.k.a. “disciples”). Spiritually speaking, everyone fits somewhere in this biblical & progressive blueprint... Are you amongst the Lost, Lovers, Learners, Leaders, or Lifers?

L I F E



The LOST

All who are wrongly & rebelliously related to the God of the Bible; the spiritually blind & stubborn; they are neither surrendered to the Lordship of Jesus Christ, nor filled with His Spirit... While such souls are often “religious,” they remain unrepentant, unbelieving, unfruitful & disobedient. The “lost” are spiritually-dead sinners.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17so that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

INTRO:

Welcome to the beginning of Section Three, where we will begin to discuss the “5 Disciples.” Herein we will show where and how Christianity can give an account for EVERY human being... past, present, and future. In other words, Christianity has a valid designation and description for every person, everywhere, throughout all human history. No exceptions. Zero! Moreover, our “Framework” diagram (also known as the “LIFE Cycle” in earlier training materials), offers a user-friendly, visual, and comprehensive tool that aides in the spiritually-defining and missional-placement of each individual on earth. EVERY single person. Bar none.

Having said that, being able to define and describe all of humanity is both valuable and validating for any professing worldview. In the case of Christianity, our worldview is unique, in part, to the extent that we recognize the reality and relationship between the 5 types of disciples that make up the world’s population.

At the risk of overstating the obvious, take note, without a cohesive comprehension of how the people of the world relate to one another, at the core of their humanness, it would be hard to advance, with any viable seriousness, a credible worldview. Fortunately, the God of the Bible has been more than forthright when it comes to engaging and explaining the human condition, from birth to burial, from the Garden of Eden to each soul’s eternal destination.

Finally, before we begin, just to be clear, let us briefly review Section One (“1 DESIGN”), Section Two (“3 DIVISIONS” – HEAD, HEART, and HANDS), and how they have begun the “FLOW,” which now cascades down to Section Three and the “5 DISCIPLES.”

Seeing the holistic connection between Come And See Christianity’s FLOW sections is critical for one’s long-term understanding of the definitions and dynamics that make up a biblical worldview AND Christian discipleship. Stated differently, God’s one divine design calls for the sharing of THE Gospel, per God’s Word, will, and ways (a.k.a. a biblical worldview). At the same time, the missional “design” of Almighty God calls for the miraculous transformation of each person’s three, core “divisions” – their HEAD, their HEART, and their HANDS. Now we are ready to address humanity in whole.

PRAYER:

LORD, we seek to bless You with all that is within us. Help us here, we pray, to be that blessing as we come to better understand You and Your eternal truth in love (Ephesians 4:15). Help us to see with Your eyes and love with Your love, all that You would reveal to us through Your Word, Your will, and Your ways. May we grow in our grasp of Your realities, Your means of restoration, and Your mission of reproduction. In the holy name of Jesus we pray. Amen and Amen

CONTEXT:

Macro

The best way to approach the topic of “lostness” and what it means to be “LOST,” is through prayer, Scripture, and biblical relationships – in that order. First, we are always wise to begin every venture by praying and obeying as the living God lovingly leads us, so long as said leading is in line with His Word, will, and ways. (NOTE: any perceived leading of God that is not consistent with His Word, will, and ways is at best a mistake, or at worst, an intentional, and potentially dangerous, if not damning, misdirection).

Next, it is absolutely essential that the Holy Bible, God’s inspired and inerrant (without error) Scriptures, be used, in full context, to define and describe ALL aspects and dynamics that prove to be relevant to the topic. In short, God’s Word is not only absolute truth, but also the Almighty’s authoritative truth. In our study and in our lives, if God said it, that settles it!

Finally... it is important to recognize, any thorough attempt to explain what Christianity means by “LOST,” must, at the very least, expand upon and explain some foundational, biblical, spiritual, personal, and eternal relationships. For example, there is a need to understand the relationship between Creator God and created man (John 1:1-18); between the Savior of your soul and the enemy (1 Peter 5:8) of your soul; between truth and lies; between love and hate; between heaven and hell; between sin and salvation; between the temporal and the eternal; between the Word of God and the opinions of the world... All of these and more have a part to play when it comes to understanding the cause, affect, cure, and culmination of lostness.

Sin's first-born is death - and its last-born is hell.

- William Secker

Micro

While the Bible addresses the LOST in an “all-people” global context, make no mistake, the global-macro is nothing more than a culmination of all the personal, each-individual, micro... all pooled together. In other words, biblically speaking, being LOST is a very personal, spiritual, and potentially eternal condition. Consequently, healthy Christian proclamation, relationships, and discipleship do not shy away from this subject. Instead, with love and empathy, Christ’s best ambassadors personally Engage, Explain, Equip, Empower, and Exemplify Christlikeness – especially when encountering the LOST or equipping others to do so.

To this end, our “Framework” diagram divides all of humanity into 5 specific DISCIPLES: the LOST, the LOVER, the LEARNER, the LEADER, and the LIFER. More to the point, every human being belongs, at any given point in their lives, in one of these five DISCIPLE groups. Moreover, each person’s positioning is based on their relationships to Creator Christ, truth, love, sin, discipleship, etc.

Once again, it is critical to note that the difference between the LOST and the other four DISCIPLES (the LOVER, LEARNER, LEADER, and LIFER) is their relationships to Christ and His cross. At the same time, by God’s grace, you should know that the divine design and loving desire of the LORD is that all people will move out of the darkness of lostness into the light of life everlasting and then grow to the glory of God.

Before moving on, remember, per the Holy Bible, this micro explanation is both a personal and global exhortation.

Romans 3:23 & 6:23

“...for ALL have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God...”
“...for the wages of sin is death...”

*People do not have to do something to go to hell;
they just have to do nothing to go to hell.*

- John MacArthur

Little sins unrepented of will damn thee as well as greater (sins). Not only great rivers fall into the sea, but little brooks; not only greater sins carry men to hell, but lesser; therefore, do not think pardon easy because sin is small.

- Thomas Watson

Message

The saddest road to hell is the one that runs under the pulpit, past the Bible, and through the middle of warnings and invitations.

- J. C. Ryle

BIG IDEA: The LOST are spiritually DEAD sinners.

PREVIEW:

1. The LOST - LOST
2. The LOST and Gone ASTRAY
3. The LOST and FOUND

TEXT:

Luke 19:10

"For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost." - Jesus Christ

1. The LOST - LOST

Illustration

Team sports and military warfare have a number of things in common... In both, preparedness, strategies, and tactics are important. Similarly, individual effort and collective effectiveness are considered paramount. With those and other parallels duly noted, still, there is one shared attribute that ultimately defines them both. Namely, in the end, both a team and a military are measured by their final wins and losses.

When it comes to spiritual warfare and the eternal existence of each human soul, a very similar parallel can be drawn. For in much the same way as a halftime score can be misleading, or the early maneuvers of a military force may mislead one to make a premature assessment of the battlefield, so it can be when it comes to one's spiritual state of lostness. In short, not all teams that are losing at halftime lose the game, nor do all early battlefield struggles end up in defeat.

In the same way, not all LOST souls end up LOST for eternity. Praise God! By His grace, through His gospel, and for His glory, some of today's LOST souls will be saved souls tomorrow. No one knows who God may choose to save (Acts 9) by His amazing grace and miraculous mercy. Even so, we must couple our gospel hope with the biblical reality that not all halftime scores get turned around. Not all battlefield shortcomings get overturned. And not all souls get saved... some of the LOST are LOST - LOST.

Explanation

The Bible is very clear when it comes to understanding the damning work of sin and the ultimate torment that awaits all those who die LOST, without a saving relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ (cf. Matthew 25:46 and 2 Thessalonians 1:9).

There are no acceptable excuses for living lost.

God has written His word on the heart/conscience of every person!
(cf. Romans 1:32 & 2:15)

Those who choose to live and die LOST will pay the ultimate price... Again, while some who are currently LOST will be, by God's grace, found and saved before they die, for the majority of humanity, such is not the case. Thus, the urgency and eternal weight of hell's consequences cries out for a response before it is too late.

*Conscience, which should have been the sinner's curb here on earth, becomes the sinner's whip that will lash his soul in hell.
That which was the seat and center of all guilt now
becomes the seat and center of all torment.*

- John Flavel

Your damnation is your own election, not God's.

- Charles Spurgeon

Application

To the LOST:

1. Cry out to Christ for the MIRACLE of His saving grace!
2. Confess your sins to Him and ask for His forgiveness.
3. Repent of your sins and turn to Christ as LORD and Savior.
4. Believe, obey, and abide in His Word, will, and ways.
5. LOVE Him with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength.

*The hell of hells will be the thought that is "forever."
The soul sees written over its head, "You are damned forever." It hears howlings
that are to be perpetual; it sees flames which are unquenchable;
it knows pains that are unmitigated.*

- Charles Spurgeon

To the FOUND:

1. Go into ALL the world and proclaim The Gospel! (Mk 16:15)
2. Go make disciples of all nations... (Matthew 28:18-20)
3. Go BE Christ's local, regional, & global witnesses (Acts 1:8)
4. Go as Christ's missional ambassadors (2 Corinthians 5:20)
5. Go following Christ and fish for LOST men (Matthew 4:19)

2. The LOST and Gone ASTRAY

Illustration

Hell is paved with good intentions.

- Martin Luther

A man can slip into hell with his hand on the door-knob of heaven.

- Billy Sunday

One line in the familiar hymn "Amazing Grace" says, "I once was lost but now am found, was blind but now I see." We may have sung it a thousand times without realizing what *lost* means. The term *lost* is used in the Bible and in Christian circles to refer to people who have not yet found eternal life in Christ. Jesus said, "For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost" ([Luke 19:10](#)). Those who are spiritually lost are separated from God and unable to find their way back to Him. – GotQuestions.org

Explanation

To be lost is to have wandered away and to be helpless to find the way back. A hiker may be lost when he takes a wrong path and does not know how to return to the right one. A child may be lost when he wanders too far from his parents and does not know where they are. Human beings are spiritually lost because we have wandered away from God and we do not know how to find Him again.

Religion is man's attempt to find God on his own. Religion creates a goal, which may be a deity or a higher plane of existence, and then declares certain steps necessary to reach that goal. Because of religion, lost people consider themselves not lost. Imagine a hiker who has lost his way. After hours of fruitless searching for the right path, he decides to set up camp in an unknown forest and declare that he is now home. He will no longer try to be rescued. Although he still does not know where he is, familiarity with his immediate surroundings gives him the illusion of being found.

Christianity does not follow that pattern. Christianity teaches that it is futile for the lost to attempt to find God, and that's why God sent Jesus to find the lost. God did for us what we could not do for ourselves ([Romans 5:8](#)). Even when we do not even realize we are lost, He knows our condition. So the Son of God left heaven to find us and bring us home ([Philippians 2:5-8](#); [Matthew 18:11](#); [John 3:16-18](#)).

We are born lost because we have a sin nature inherited from our first parents ([Genesis 3](#)) that drives us to rebel against our Shepherd ([Romans 3:23](#)). We were created to be at home with Him, walking in harmony and obedience. But because of our sin, we are lost ([Isaiah 59:2](#)). The gulf between us and God is impossible for us to bridge, and we cannot find our way back into His presence. Spiritually lost people are bound by their sin and condemned to hell ([Luke 12:5](#); [Romans 6:23](#)). But when the lost place their trust in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, a bridge opens up before them. Because of God's mercy and love, the lost can come home ([1 Peter 2:25](#)).

Every human being is either lost or found. We all belong to one of those two categories. The first step in becoming found is to admit that we are lost. We agree with God that our sin deserves punishment, and we acknowledge that the punishment Jesus suffered was sufficient to pay for it. We humbly receive that gift through faith ([Ephesians 2:8-9](#)). In a divine exchange, God transfers our sin to the cross and transfers Christ's righteousness to our account ([Colossians 2:14](#)). We then enter into a new relationship with God as His own beloved children. We are no longer lost. We have been found, forgiven, and given a fresh start ([2 Corinthians 5:17](#)).

- GotQuestions.org

Application

Recognize the reality of God's truth in love!

Whether you are looking into the mirror or out onto the mission field, if you are staring into the eyes of the LOST, ask the LORD to show you whether the lostness you see is in the context of a micro-battle or the macro-war... Is this LOST condition a temporary stumble or an eternal condition? Are the sins before you attached to the rejection of Christ as the LORD of one's life or a short term setback and lapse in judgement?

If, upon prayerful reflection and a study of the Scriptures, you believe the lostness you are confronting is of the LOST – LOST nature, revisit this lesson's first applications. On the other hand, if it is determined that you are dealing with a temporary lostness, a stumble, a having gone astray, then WAKE UP and/or confront and convict the slumbering sinners before you with the same message.

Do not forget, these are eternally consequential contemplations!

*Those who go to Heaven ride on a pass and enter into blessings
that they never earned, but all who go to hell
pay their own way.*

- John R. Rice

*Satan can make men dance upon the brink of hell
as though they were on the verge of heaven.*

- Charles Spurgeon

*He that but looks upon a plate of ham and eggs to lust after it
hath already committed breakfast with it in his heart.*

- C.S. Lewis

*I would rather go to heaven alone
than go to hell with company.*

- R.A. Torrey

3. The LOST and FOUND

Illustration

Have you ever known the frustration of “losing” your house or car keys somewhere within your home? Typically, in such circumstances, our height of frustration usually comes when we realize that the keys are not actually “lost,” we have simply misplaced them... To put it another way, while in the moment our keys are definitely lost, we KNOW they are not “lost – lost,” they are just not yet found.

In the same way that we tend to celebrate the finding of our lost keys, the Bible tells us that heaven rejoices every time a lost soul is found and saved by the gospel of Jesus Christ (Luke 15:7).

*Morality may keep you out of jail,
but it takes the blood of Jesus Christ to keep you out of hell.
- Charles Spurgeon*

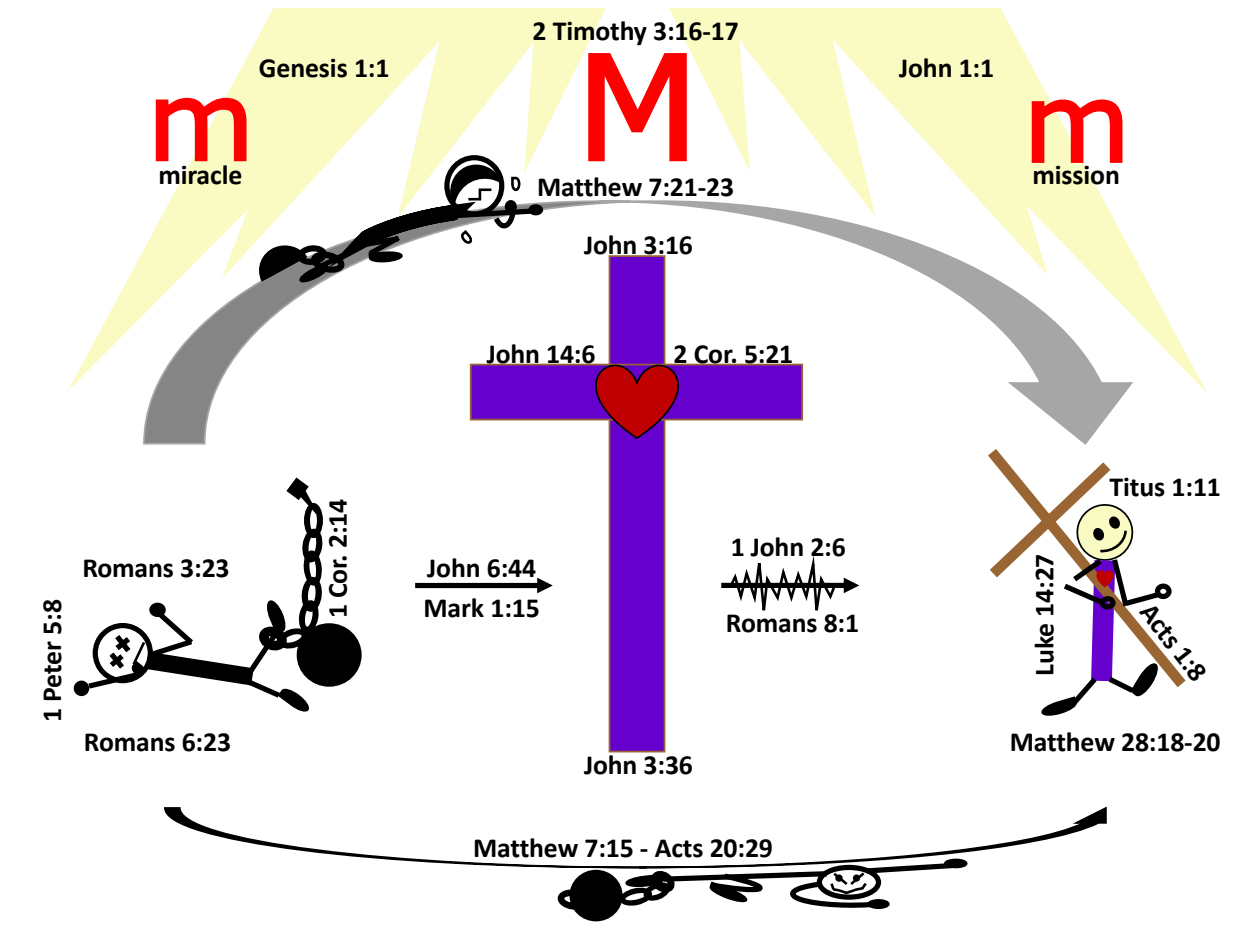
Explanation

Luke 19:10 offers us one of the Bible’s many purpose statements for Christ’s coming and His subsequent mission for His Church. In short, Jesus declared: “I have come to seek and save the lost.”

One need only hear the truth in love of Luke 15’s three different accounts, per Jesus, of the lost coin, the lost sheep, and the lost son(s), to see once again how God’s divine design includes the finding, saving, and growing of the lost.

God’s Word, will, and ways show us that the LOST can be FOUND by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone, per the Word of God alone, and for the glory of God alone. This is Christianity’s good news. This is THE Gospel of Jesus Christ! Every LOST soul needs the miracle that only Messiah Jesus can give. And when the Messiah’s miracle has truly taken root, a cross carrying missionary is born (again), set apart and sent out to serve The King and His kingdom.

One of the most beautiful things about the LOST being found is that they then become finders or fishers (Matthew 4:19) of other LOST souls... Our Stickman Gospel diagram & Scriptures share this miracle visually.



Application

To embrace, obey, and abide in Christ, His Gospel, and the true ambassadorship that comes with authentic, biblical Christianity, by God's grace and for His glory, every found soul should correct the error of their LOST ways.

1. Rightly and righteously respond and relate to the God of the Bible.
2. See and confess your sinful stubbornness and your utter hopelessness.
3. BE filled with God's Holy Spirit and surrender to victory in Jesus Christ.
4. Repent, believe, bear fruit, and faithfully obey God's Word, will, and ways.
5. Cry out to Jesus asking Him to make you a born-again sinner-turned-saint.
6. Spend the rest of your life loving, worshipping, praising, & sharing Christ.
7. Go make disciples who make disciples who make disciples! (2 Tim. 2:2)

*God keeps no half-way house.
It's either heaven or hell for you and me.
- Billy Sunday*

REVIEW: **The LOST are spiritually DEAD sinners!**

CLOSE:

*If we had more hell in the pulpit, we would have less hell in the pew.
- Billy Graham*

For What?

*I believe that a great number of people are going to die and go to hell because they're counting on their religiosity in the church instead of their relationship with Jesus to get them into heaven. They give lip service to repentance and faith, but they've never been born again.
- Adrian Rogers*

*None sink so far into hell as those that come nearest heaven, because they fall from the greatest heights.
- William Gurnall*

*Disbelieve hell, and you unscrew, unsettle, and unpin everything in Scripture.
- J. C. Ryle*

So What?

*The safest road to hell is the gradual one - the gentle slope, soft underfoot, without sudden turnings, without milestones, without signposts.
- C.S. Lewis*

*How many souls have been blown into hell with the wind of popular applause?
- Thomas Watson*

Multitudes of people who expect to go to Heaven will go to a Hell of torment. Thousands of "good" people, "moral" people, church members, even church workers - yes, and, alas, even prophets, priests and preachers - will find themselves lost when they expected to be saved, condemned when they expected approval, cast out of Heaven when they expected to be received into eternal bliss. That is the explicit meaning of the words of our Lord...

[Spoken in Matthew 7:21-23.]

- John R. Rice

Now What?

I would rather go into the kingdom of heaven through the poor house than go down to hell in a golden chariot.

- Dwight L. Moody

If sinners be damned, at least let them leap to Hell over our bodies. If they will perish, let them perish with our arms wrapped about their knees. Let no one go there unwarned and un-prayed for.

- Charles Spurgeon

PRAYER

Dear heavenly Father, thank You so much for the Truth and Love of Your Word, will, and ways. Please help us to absorb and apply ALL that You have shared and commanded in the Bible. May our heads be infilled with Your defining Scriptures, for the express purpose of informing, inspecting, and inspiring our sanctified hearts and serving hands.

In Jesus name we pray.

Amen and Amen

Related SERMON:

"LOST"

Luke 19:10

September, 2010

Sermon Series: Defining Definitive Definitions