

WHERE DO YOU FIT IN ?

Today, we'll look at 2 categories then we'll see 2 dimensions for each of them:

A person is either

SAVED

or

LOST

Then they are either

DOING
THE
SPIRITUAL
THING

or

DOING
THE
CARNAL
THING

DOING
THE
RELIGIOUS
THING

or

DOING
THE
NATURAL
THING

To 'be saved'

means you are 'delivered' or 'rescued'

from the judgment and penalty of eternal fire in hell.

To be 'lost'

means your soul will be 'damned' or 'condemned'

to everlasting torment in the flames of hell.

When the Apostle Paul wrote to the saints at Corinth,

he assured them that he was enduring through the commission God entrusted to him, and that he was not secretly mis-using God's word to manipulate them:

2 Cor 4:1,2 Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not;

2 But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.

Then he goes on to divide the entire human population - into 2 groups: Saved or Lost:

2 Cor 4:3,4 But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to **them that are lost:**

4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of **them which believe not**, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

First, we'll consider the people who have **NOT believed the gospel** are 'lost'.

Their minds are blinded to the truth.

They aren't concerned about accountability to God:

Psa 14:1 The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good.

They are people who are 'doing whatever comes **natural**' ---

1 Cor 2:14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

Those 'lost' people think God's truth is unbelievable:

1 Cor 1:18 For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.

God has declared Himself in nature in the order -- not chaos -- of the world:

Rom 1:18-23 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;

19 Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them.

20 For **the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen**, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that **they are without excuse**:

21 Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became **vain** in their imaginations, and their **foolish heart** was darkened.

22 Professing themselves to be wise, they became **fools**,

23 And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.

Just before God destroyed all flesh with the flood -- except for Noah's family --

He beheld this:

Gen 6:5 And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

It's been a heart problem, all along:

Jer 17:9 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

Throughout the ages, man has had a wicked heart:

Matt 15:18-20 But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man.

19 For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies:

20 These are the things which defile a man: but to eat with unwashen hands defileth not a man.

Even the 'cream of the crop' man, in his highest, natural state is no good:

Psa 39:5 Behold, thou hast made my days as an handbreadth; and mine age is as nothing before thee: verily every man at his best state is altogether vanity. Selah.

When the prophet Samuel went to Jesse's house, to choose one of his sons to reign on Israel's throne after King Saul, God told Samuel:

1 Sam 16:7 But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.

Next, let's examine another type of lost people --- those who are religious.

They appear good on the outside --- but inside, they're evil:

Matt 23:27,28 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness.

28 Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity.

Jesus warned His listeners about those deceitful, religious people:

Matt 7:21-23 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?

23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

God, through Paul, also warned the Corinthian saints about phoney Christians:

2 Cor 11:13 For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ.

They are still just as wicked as the first group except they have a false face on:

2 Tim 3:1-5 This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.

- 2 For men shall be
- lovers of their own selves,
 - covetous,
 - boasters,
 - proud,
 - blasphemers,
 - disobedient to parents,
 - unthankful,
 - unholy,
 - 3 • Without natural affection,
 - trucebreakers,
 - false accusers,
 - incontinent,
 - fierce,
 - 4 • despisers of those that are good,
 - Traitors,
 - heady,
 - highminded,
 - lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;
 - 5 • **Having a form of godliness**, but denying the power thereof:
from such turn away.

These religious folks whether they realize it or not are still wrong:

2 Tim 3:13 But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, **deceiving, and being deceived.**

Now, let's study:

the people who have **believed the gospel** (Paul preached) who are 'saved'.

You should certainly know where in your Bible to read that gospel: **1 Cor 15:1-4**, that Christ **DIED** for our sins, and He was **BURIED**, and He **ROSE AGAIN** the 3rd day.

We don't make too much of Paul

We certainly don't worship him

Paul himself didn't want to be exalted:

1 Cor 3:1-9 And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto **spiritual**, but as unto **carnal (that's fleshly)**, even as unto babes in Christ.

2 I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able.

3 For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?

4 For while one saith, I am of Paul; and another, I am of Apollos; are ye not carnal?

5 Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers by whom ye believed, even as the Lord gave to every man?

6 I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase.

7 So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase.

8 Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour.

9 For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building.

As we continue reading Paul described 2 sections of believers ---

those who will be rewarded for building in Paul's gospel

and those who will suffer loss of rewards for working under the wrong commission:

1 Cor 3:10-15 According to the grace of God which is given unto me (Paul), as a wise masterbuilder, (God assigned Paul this job as 'boss')

I have laid the foundation, (we'll read

and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed (be careful) how he buildeth thereupon.

11 For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

12 Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble;

13 Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work **of what sort it is.**

14 If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.

15 If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

You'll be wasting effort, time, materials, money, and labor

for religious works that will burn up

if you don't build on the foundation Paul laid.

Paul preached Jesus in a different light than the 12 disciples did:

2 Cor 5:16 Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh: yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, **yet now henceforth know we him no more.**

We will be **established** by what Paul preached.

He preached Jesus this way:

Rom 16:25,26 Now to him that is of power to **stablish** you according to **my (Paul's) gospel**, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, **(how?)** according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began,

26 But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith:

God's design for spreading His word:

2 Tim 2:2 And the things that thou hast heard of me **(Paul)** among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.

A few verses later, Paul's message is emphasised yet again:

2 Tim 2:7 Consider what I **(Paul)** say; and the Lord give thee understanding in all things.

On Judgment Day --- Jesus Christ will present us before the Father.

If we have continued in Paul's gospel --- we will get rewards.

But, if we followed some other gospel --- we will be embarrassed and suffer loss:

Col 1:21-29 And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled

22 In the body of his flesh through death, to present you **holy** and **unblameable** and **unreproveable** in his sight:

23 **If ye continue in** the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of **the gospel**, which ye have heard,

and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven;

whereof I Paul am made a minister;

24 Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake, which is the church:

25 Whereof **I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you**, to fulfil the word of God;

26 **Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints:**

27 To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:

28 Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect (**that's mature, grown-up**) in Christ Jesus:

29 Whereunto I also labour, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily.

The thing that makes the difference in saved people, is what doctrine they labor under.

It's understanding the 'grace message' that motivates us to serve the Lord:

Tit 2:11-14 For the **grace of God** that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, 12 **Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;**

13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

14 Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works. **We don't work to get saved, but because we are saved!**

This is David Dowell, saying, "Think about it!"