

Saving the Souls of Our Sons and Daughters (Lesson Six)

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake from material by Jeff Asher)

Introduction:

A. The present view of the world toward Christianity:

1. "Organized religion is a sham and a crutch for weak-minded people who need strength in numbers." (Jesse Ventura in Playboy)
2. "Religion has caused more harm than any other idea since the beginning of time. There's nothing good I can say about it. People use it as a crutch." (Larry Flynt in Hustler)
3. "Religion is something left over from the infancy of our intelligence; it will fade away as we adopt reason and science as our guidelines." (Bertrand Russell)
4. "Religion is just mind control." (George Carlin)
5. "Your belief in God is merely an escape from your monotonous, stupid and cruel life" (Jiddu Krishnamurti [Indian Theosophist Philosopher, author of The Future of Humanity, 1895-1986])
6. "Religion is as helpful as throwing a drowning man both ends of a rope." (Richard Dawkins [evolutionary theorist at Oxford])
7. Are you going to be guided by the philosophy of three perverts and three foaming at the mouth fanatical atheists?
8. Current reasoning is that you have to be in some kind of serious trouble or intellectually challenged to need Christianity.
9. Their destiny will catch up with them, and with everyone who believes their vain philosophy - Jude 14-15

B. Humankind needs Jesus Christ

1. The circumstances of life do not determine whether or not a person needs Jesus. They may influence whether or not he chooses Christ; but they do not determine the need - Deut. 8:11-20
2. Jesus said we would need Him - Mark 2:17
3. People often turn to the Lord in crisis and seldom when in prosperity
4. People often turn to the Lord in advanced years when health issues increase, but seldom when young and in good health
5. We need Jesus at every stage in life

I. WE NEED JESUS TO SAVE US FROM OUR SINS

A. Every accountable person sins - Rom. 3:23; 1John 1:8, 10

1. We sin by doing what is wrong - 1John 3:4, 5:17
2. We also sin by not doing what is right - James 4:17
3. Obeying the Gospel is right; not obeying the Gospel is sin - 2Thes. 1:8

B. Every accountable person is in danger - Rom. 6:23; 2Thes. 1:8-9

1. As sinners, we face Hell as the consequence of having violated God's word, and there is nothing we can do to save ourselves from the just consequences of our sins: not regret, no amount of mostly moral living, no special deeds of kindness or social causes will save us
2. Jesus Christ came to save us from our sins - Matt. 20:28; Heb. 10:10

3. He cleansed and redeemed us - 1Peter 1:18-19; Eph. 1:7; Col. 1:14
4. He is not a savior; He is the Savior - John 14:6; Acts 4:12

II. WE NEED JESUS AS OUR INTERCESSOR

- A. Even after becoming Christians, there will be times when we fall prey to temptation and sin - Gal. 6:1; 2Tim. 2:24-26; James 5:19-20
 1. When that happens, we will need Jesus
 2. 1John 2:1-2; Heb. 7:25, 4:15-16

III. WE NEED JESUS AS A GUIDING EXAMPLE

- A. God has always known that there is great power in examples
 1. 1Cor. 10:6, 11:1; Eph. 5:1; 1Thes. 1:6; 1Tim. 4:12; Titus 2:7; Heb. 13:7
- B. Jesus is the perfect example from Whom we can learn to live.
 1. Resisting temptation - Matt. 4:1-11
 2. Bearing with suffering - Matt. 26:39
 3. Willingness to forgive - 1Peter 2:21-22; Luke 23:34
 4. When making moral choices, we should ask, "What did Jesus do?"

IV. WE NEED JESUS TO GIVE MEANING TO LIFE

- A. Many people are dissatisfied with life and living; in abandoning God and the faith they have separated themselves from their purpose in life
 1. Clothes, cars, the latest electronic devices, partying and having fun, relationships and romances all seem tedious and empty, and do not make life fulfilling. Chasing the next high from whatever
 2. "They have everything in this life and nothing to live for." - Ecc. 1:14
 3. Jesus gives meaning and purpose to life and makes it fulfilling.
 - a. We are here because we were created by God. He has a purpose for us.
 - b. Gifted with free will, we can choose to bring our lives into subjection to Christ or rebellion against God
 - c. 2Cor. 5:10-11; Ecc. 12:13-14
 4. Jesus fills the void in our lives - Matt. 5:6; John 4:13-14, 6:35

V. WE NEED JESUS FOR DAILY STRENGTH

- A. Some things in this life are extremely difficult to face alone: drugs, alcohol, abuse, pornography, et al; but, no problem is too big for Jesus
 1. Phil. 4:13; 2Tim. 4:16-17
- C. God is our refuge in trouble - Psalm 56:3-4, 46:1-2; 1Peter 5:6-7

VI. WE NEED JESUS FOR VICTORY OVER DEATH

- A. Fear of dying is a universal human experience - Heb. 2:14-15
 1. Death is the most difficult event anyone will ever be called on to face.
 2. Without Jesus, it is a senseless, bitter end to the human experience.
- B. Jesus brought life and immortality through the Gospel - 2Tim. 1:10
- C. There will be a resurrection - John 11:25
- D. There is hope for Christians - John 14:1-3; 1Peter 1:3-5