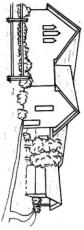


NORTHWOODS
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH



4723 GRIFFITH AVENUE
CHEYENNE, WY 82009

WORSHIP IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH. JOHN 4:24

For the Son of Man has come to save
that which was lost.
Mat 18:11

THE NORTHWOODS NEWS

LOST

By

Rich Cesal

Being lost is a frightful thing. I don't know if many of you have had the experience of being totally lost. Not knowing where you are and what way to go. That happened to me as a child probably about six years old. We lived in Cicero, Ill but my mother's sister lived in the city, Chicago. One drizzly dark winter evening, while my family visited my aunt, I decided to follow their dog into the street. I walked for several blocks and then realized I didn't know where I was. Some kids with an umbrella came along and took me into their home. Between my frantic mother and the people that found me, who called the police, I was finally taken home in the arms of my uncle.

That experience has left very vivid pictures in my mind even after almost 80 years. I was totally lost. No one I knew was anywhere around me. Very frightful. Another time, I was much older, probably in my mid-thirties, I had to go to Chicago to the IBM building for some training. I had been away from the Chicago area for about ten years. But, I had known Chicago very well. I worked in the Merchandise Mart just two blocks from the IBM Building for several years. Chicago was the destination of many date nights. I went to college a mile or two south of the downtown. I knew my way around.

When I was there for those classes, I stayed with my relatives in Cicero and rode the "L" into downtown. The "L" starts out in Cicero on

the ground but soon rises to become the elevated. When the "L" gets to the downtown area, it goes underground and becomes the subway. The day was very cloudy. No sign of the sun was visible anywhere. I came up out of the subway where I was supposed to, but when I reached the surface, I looked around and had no idea which way to go. I had no knowledge of which direction was north. Once again I had that awful feeling of being totally lost. As I began to read the names of the streets at the street corners, I soon knew where I was. Well I got through that alright and found my way to my destination.

The daily newspaper and the TV news is full of tragedies that afflict people of all ages and positions. In their anguish, it is easy to detect how lost they are to deal with their dilemmas. People hit with tragedy do not know where to turn. They have nothing to hold on to. It is so sad to see mothers fearful of the condition of a child. A husband crying for his wife. A family that has lost their home to fire. There is no anchor. No foundation to help them in their time of need.

That is because they have no spiritual aspect to their lives. They don't know God. They do not know "the peace that surpasses all understanding." (Phil 4:7).

When people genuinely know Christ, the hurt is the same but the being able to deal with it is entirely different. In the news, interviews with people in various situations, reveal what they look toward to get them through the current trouble. Even church people, who should have a leg up on handling tragedy sometimes show themselves to be no better off than those who disavow any ties to a church. I experienced one woman whose husband died in an horrific traffic accident in Laramie. He was a leader in the church. Her son eventually became an assistant minister in that church. But when she received the word of her husband's demise, she went absolutely berserk. She showed no evidence of any truly spiritual base. Now, it is easy to talk when it is not happening to me, but I would pray that the hope that is within me about biblical reality would get me through any tragedy that would befall me.

In the news recently, there was the telling of a pregnant young mother who was found shot to death in her home. Her husband is a pastor. It was clear by the interview with her husband that he was an evangelical pastor. He did not show a great deal of emotion at the loss of his wife. He was criticized for his statements lacking emotion. But it was obvious to any believer that he was what he was because of his firm belief in a providential God. He had both feet on the ground and he was strongly in the arms of Jesus.

The purpose of this article is to point out the complete helplessness of people who do not know Christ. You've seen them. They are in the news every day. People who do not understand the

biblical doctrine that God has pre-ordained all that happens before He created anything and thus all is in His hands. The absolute sovereignty of God. The promises in the Bible that all things have a purpose and for those who are in Christ that means He will take care of you. You do not come up to the surface and find yourself totally lost and without direction.

Jesus defined His mission by saying, "The Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost" (Luke 19:10). He didn't simply say that He came to save the lost, but that He came to seek and to save them. That is, before the lost can be redeemed, they must first be found.

But Jesus didn't have a building; He didn't wait behind closed doors for people to come and see Him. His was a ministry of "walking around." He went out to where the people were. That's what missions is all about. The ministry of Christ was a ministry of searching for pain and for those who are lost.

Romans chapter 9 tells of a God who is totally sovereign. That God chooses His people. That election is God's way. That God is in total control of all things.

When you see people in a terrible hurt who demonstrate that they have no compass it is a dreadful sight. Nothing to fall back on. They are to be pitied. With the coming of the messiah, we have the fulfillment of all God's promises. Christ's defeat of the grave with His resurrection and ascension, gives us the assurance of the resurrection of all of God's people when Christ returns. The gospel tells the whole story. This is the Good News. And furthermore it is for all of God's elect.

That Christ died for sinners and paid the price for their sins is a truth that only faith can accept. And faith it is that gives people the assurance of their standing with God. And a good start to acquire that faith is attendance in a gospel preaching truly Bible believing church.

Of course, many people find some remnant of spiritual belief in their lives when faced with tragedy. But if there is no active foundation, it no doubt will mean nothing and not be a help in time of trouble.

The movie and book *Unbroken* tells the story of a man who was captured by the Japanese during World War II and faced horrible living conditions as well as daily severe torture. His testimony of his faith proved to be a great relief to him.

In the AWANA program for kids the key emphasis is that of Scripture memorization. AWANA is an acronym coming from 2 Tim 2:15, "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who

does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." This verse is shortened to Approved Workman Are Not Ashamed. Another key verse in the program is Ps 119:11, "Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You." This stresses the need to memorize Scripture.

The AWANA Program found in so many evangelical churches is a program for all 2-18 aged children. It is fundamentally sound in the pre-high school age as it is based on the Bible. The program consists of age sensitive manuals which are all based on Bible memorization up to the High School Program where the program becomes doctrinally based. Children must memorize Bible verses and recite them to their leader word perfect in order to advance. Awards are given for moving along in the program.

Unfortunately, although excellent for the young, the material for high school turns to doctrine and the program highly supports dispensationalism. And a church cannot be part of the AWANA program without vowing allegiance to dispensationalism.

There are many testimonies of people finding themselves in great danger and suffering and recalling a verse memorized in their long ago AWANA experience and finding great comfort.

Many WWII prisoners of war tell of their recalling verses they learned in Sunday School to get them through their ordeal. Stories are told of some prisoners using Morse code to relate verses to other prisoners.

In James 13:13-18, he speaks of if you have "bitter envy and self-seeking" in your hearts this type of wisdom does not descend from above but is demonic, from the devil. Those that show a high degree of secular living cannot be a true Christian regardless of what they think of themselves. He further states that where "envy and self-seeking exist" evil is there. Those who exhibit "First pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy" exhibit wisdom that is from above.

We also find in James 4:4 this, "Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God." How much more clearly can it be said? If a person follows the world and its teachings, he will be led to destruction.

Those whose accomplishments in life are secular are lost, totally separated from God. When I watch commercials for Shriner's Hospital or St Jude there are testimonies of parents who are very anxious about their children. One such commercial asks what would

you do when told your child has cancer and has only a few months to live. The parent is grief stricken and shows absolutely nothing like any sign of faith. I am taken back by this reaction. I would be very prone to drop to my knees and pray.

Suicide rates are going higher especially with young people. This, I'm sure, is because their parents have not taught them in the way they should go since no doubt the parents have no spiritual upbringing themselves. One thing that has always brought people closer to God is tragedy in their lives. But the above mentioned people do not exhibit any kind of tumble towards God. By the way, the culture treatment experienced by the young seems to know no country boundaries.

During WWII, turning to God was at a near fever pitch. But it seems after the war ended, people just fell away from going to church. Now after the better part of three generations, we find a huge absence of spirituality. Look at Europe. Less than 5% of the populations of all the European countries go to church. The most religious of the populations are the Muslims. If that is not a scary statistic what is?

Drug use is another problem. Young people look for some sort of excitement and turn to drugs. Educated adults look for relief from humdrum lives in the use of drugs. With no spiritual beliefs, a person is so lost they turn to drugs to get a release from society and everyday life.

The most serious event of being totally lost occurred 2000 years ago. Jesus the Christ, hanging on the cross said these words: "My God, My God, why have you forsaken Me?" The full meaning of this is that the second person of the Godhead, the chosen One to pay for the wrath of God's punishment on all of His children had to endure the complete isolation from God the Father. Total abandonment. Totally lost. God was totally absent. God was an integral part of Jesus' life and now He is nowhere to be found. As Jesus hung on that cross, in light of such suffering He endured, now the complete absence of God must have been the epitome of being lost and without hope.

These words were foretold in Psalm 22 which is known as the Messiah Psalm by King David. Psalm 22 starts in verse 1 with "My God, My God, why have you forsaken Me? Why are you so far from helping Me, and from the words of My groaning?" This further emphasizes the total abandonment.

I don't know about you, but I would find the being "so far from helping me" to be more than I could bear. There could be nothing worse. However, we have the promise that "I will never leave you nor forsake you." (Heb 13:5)

Maranatha, come Lord Jesus. Ω

MY ANCHOR HOLDS

AUTHOR UNKNOWN

On October 15th, 1954, Hurricane Hazel struck Southern Ontario, where I lived with my parents. It was by far the most devastating storm to hit the area in recorded history. Eighty-one lives were lost, and four thousand left homeless. Many bridges and roads were washed out. Raw sewage backed up into our basement. Four feet of it!

It has reminded me many times of our spiritual need for a safe refuge and secure anchor. (And, yes, some of the stormy situations we face because of our own choices, as mine was in the hurricane.) Many hymn writers, before the days of air travel particularly, used the turbulent sea to depict the turmoil and conflict in our lives, and to describe how Christ is the answer for the safety and security of our souls.

Our hope in Christ is described as providing an eternal anchor in Hebrews:

"[We] have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us. This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil, where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek" (Heb. 6:18-20).

How wonderful that we have a spiritual haven provided by our Saviour! The children of God are contrasted with the unsaved in this way: They are "without Christ...having no hope and without God in the world" (Eph. 2:12). Rather than children of God, they are "children of wrath" those fitted by nature for eternal condemnation (Eph. 2:1-3). We are sheltered in Christ through faith in His atoning sacrifice. And the absolute security that is ours is affirmed:

"What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? . . . I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Rom. 8:31-35, 38-39; cf. Jn. 10:28-29).

Troubles almost 'whelm the soul;
Griefs like billows o'er me roll;
Tempters seek to lure astray;
Storms obscure the light of day:
But in Christ I can be bold,
I've an anchor that shall hold.

Important Things

Though the angry surges roll
On my tempest driven soul,
I am peaceful, for I know,
Wildly though the winds may blow,
I've an anchor safe and sure,
That can evermore endure.

Refrain: And it holds, my anchor holds:
Blow your wildest, then, O gale,
On my bark so small and frail;
By His grace I shall not fail,
For my anchor holds, my anchor holds.

I can feel the anchor fast
As I meet each sudden blast,
And the cable, though unseen,
Bears the heavy strain between;
Through the storm I safely ride,
Till the turning of the tide.

Refrain
Troubles almost 'whelm the soul;
Griefs like billows o'er me roll;
Tempters seek to lure astray;
Storms obscure the light of day;
But in Christ I can be bold,
I've an anchor that shall hold.

Aug 7th—The most important day of the year. We will again have the well attended Vedauwoo Picnic at the Gazebo in Vedauwoo Park. All are invited. There will be a signup sheet for bringing food items. The festivities start around 4:00 PM but you may arrive anytime. We have the Gazebo from 8:00 AM–8:00 PM. Come and climb a mountain or just sit and visit.

The Park is located at Exit 329, I-80 west of Cheyenne. This is the Vedauwoo Exit. Follow the road to the Vedauwoo entrance and then stay on what appears to be the main drag. Take the first road to the left and you should see the Gazebo on the left shortly.

Men's Breakfast— At the church, Saturday Morning, July 16, 8:00 AM. Brian Church is teaching a study on *The Dark Side of Islam* which turns to instruction by Christine Solomon who has lived in Muslim countries for years. We always have a hearty hot breakfast and a great fellowship time. See you there.

Nursery Schedule for July



3rd	- ALEX DAVISON
10th	- ESTHER DAVISON
17th	- KELLEIGH ANDERSON
24th	- HEATHER NORGAUER
31st	- BECKY SHWEN

Please trade with someone if you are unable to do nursery duty on the assigned day.



Joshua Anderson	7th
Harlan Edmonds	9th
Laura Sackett	26th

Gregg & Stephanie Trujillo	2nd
Brian & Branda Church	10th
Ken & Dell Tunnicliffe	22nd
Matt & Aimee Davison	29th



Anchoring Your Soul

from Tabletalk Magazine

The God of Christianity is not a frivolous God. He is not given to caprice or arbitrary acts of violence. His actions are not irrational expressions or whims. We do not know why at a given place or a given time natural catastrophes take place. Easy equations of guilt and disaster are ruled out by statements in the book of Job and the ninth chapter of John's gospel. When inexplicable disasters occur, we must say with Luther, "Let God be God."

When Job cried out, "The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord" (Job 1:21b), he was not trying to sound pious or give superficial praise to God. He was biting his lip and gripping his stomach as he sought to remain faithful to God in the midst of unmitigated anguish. But Job knew who God was and cursed Him not.

Whatever else this world is, it is fallen. Suffering is inseparably related to sin. That is not to say that all suffering is a direct result of sin or that there is a measurable ratio between an individual's suffering and his sin (Job and John 9 militate against such thinking). However, suffering belongs to the complex of sin. As long as this world suffers from the violence of men, it returns such violence in kind. Scripture often personifies nature as being angry with its human master and exploiter. Instead of dressing, keeping, and replenishing the earth, we exploit it and pollute it.

The world is not yet redeemed. We look for a new heaven and a new earth. We yearn for a land without tempest, flood, or earthquake. Such yearning provides a hope that is an anchor for the soul.

Coram Deo

Is your soul anchored to the biblical hope of the future, the new heaven and earth, where there will be no more sin and suffering?

Session Report

July 2016 Session Report

The all church picnic is coming up on August 7th. Please plan on attending.

Mark your calendars for September 16 & 17. Our conference this year features Dr. Carl Trueman who will speak about God's work in the Reformation and how our faith gives us hope, guidance and comfort in this present age. Brochures are available in the narthex. They can be used to invite friends and family.

We are looking for volunteers for a possible 1-day VBS on August 13, 2016. See Tim Anderson if you can help.

Seeking The Lost

From
R.C. Sproul
Dec 14, 2015

It's easy for us to shield ourselves—not consciously, not maliciously—but nevertheless, to pass on the other side in order to remain unaware of the pain and the spiritual hopelessness that is around us. That was not the way of Jesus. He looked for the pain. He searched for lost people. That was the first step in redeeming them.

Jesus gained a reputation for associating with those who were considered outcasts. Pariahs, undesirables, the unlovely of the Jewish culture—all these gathered around Jesus. This disturbed the Pharisees and scribes, the dignitaries and clergy of the day. They had adopted a tradition that taught salvation by segregation: keep yourself away from anyone who is involved in sin; that is how you can secure your own redemption. It was part of their working philosophy to isolate themselves from those who were sinners. Jesus came and defied that tradition by openly associating with the pariahs of the culture.

It was on one of these occasions that the Pharisees began to grumble and complain about Jesus' companions. In response, Jesus tells a series of parables, the first of which reads as follows:

What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, "Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost." Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance. (Luke 15:4-7)

This parable is called "the parable of the lost sheep." There are those today who don't believe that anyone is lost; they reject the whole concept of being lost. There are those who are universalists, who believe everyone goes to heaven automatically; justification is not by faith or works, but simply by death—because no one is truly lost. Then there are those who say that, given enough time, lost people will eventually find their way back. We just need to leave them alone.

However, if no one is lost, or if they will find their way back on their own, then the mission of Christ was a waste of time; the atonement of Christ was not needed. This casts a shadow upon the whole mission of Jesus Himself.

Jesus defined His mission by saying, "The Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost" (Luke 19:10). He didn't simply say that He came to save the lost, but that He came to seek and to save them. That is, before the lost can be redeemed, they must first be found.

It is finding the lost that necessitates the endeavor of missions. It's easy for us to deceive ourselves into thinking that no one is lost, and one way of doing that is to distance ourselves from the search—that is, to make sure that we keep ourselves uninformed about the needs of the lost, to insulate ourselves from knowing what is really going on in the world. For instance, we don't go out of our way to understand and learn about all of the people who are starving in this world. When we are confronted with it, our consciences are pricked and we are moved to action. But we don't go out of our way to find misery; we think there's enough misery in our own lives, without looking for more.

When I was a child, it was still normal for the doctor to make house calls, where he would actually come to your house. Every day, he would drive through the community and visit children, the elderly, or whoever was sick. Today, if you're sick, the doctor is not going to come to you; you have to go to the doctor. Unfortunately, many churches operate the same way; they hang out a shingle and invite people to come to them.

But Jesus didn't have a building; He didn't wait behind closed doors for people to come and see Him. His was a ministry of "walking around." He went out to where the people were. That's what missions is all about. The ministry of Christ was a ministry of searching for pain and for those who are lost. Ω

What does it mean to be Lost?

By
Wil Pounds

How does God view the individual who has never put his faith in Jesus Christ as his personal Savior?

The Bible describes the estate of the unsaved person as a "children of disobedience," "dead in trespasses and sins," "lost," "perishing," "condemned," "under the wrath of God," "blind," "in the powers of darkness," "loves spiritual darkness," "under the control of Satan," "disobedient to God," etc. (John 3:18-20, 36; 8:44; Eph. 2:1-2; Mk. 7:21-33; Rom. 5:19; 1:29-32; 3:10-18; Gal. 5:19-21).

The lost person is spiritually blind to the things of God (1 Cor. 2:14; 2 Cor. 4:3-4; Jn. 3:3). Therefore, he sees little value in the demand of the Bible to have a personal faith in the saving power of God in Christ.

All moral and religious people who do not have a personal trust in Jesus Christ as their Savior are not saved. They are spiritually lost and not counted among the saved (Isa. 53:6). There is nothing they can do to merit or earn salvation by their virtue or good works. No good works in any form can take the place of a spiritual birth (Jn. 3:3). Good religious works and high moral values cannot impart new life or salvation.

Man has wandered away from God and is in the wrong place. In Luke 19:10, Jesus said, "For the Son of man is come to seek and save that which was lost." John summarizes the saving Gospel, "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life" (John 3:16). Then he goes on to explain, "He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God" (v. 18).

The lost person is totally depraved meaning that he cannot influence God in any way to merit or gain a right relationship with God. "Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually" (Gen. 6:5). "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?" (Jer. 17:9). Jesus described the lost person: "For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed the evil thoughts, fornications, thefts, murders,

adulteries, deeds of coveting and wickedness, as well as deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride and foolishness" (Mark 7:21-22). It looks and smells like prime-time television, but it is totally unacceptable to God. "There is not a just person on the earth, that does good, and sins not" (Ecc. 7:20). "For all of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment; and all of us wither like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away" (Isa. 64:6). In the sight of a holy God, such individuals are lost and cannot find their way to God.

Only God can remedy this problem in the heart of a person. "The wages of sin is death," and every sinner must pay the penalty or have someone pay it for him (Rom. 6:23; 5:6-8).

Jesus gave Himself as a ransom for our sins, the just for the unjust. "He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds we were healed" (1 Pet. 2:24).

God the Holy Spirit energizes the estate of the person who has put his faith in the atoning work of Jesus Christ (Phil. 2:13; Jn. 3:3). The saved person is under the life changing power of God. We are energized either by God or by Satan. We are either saved or unsaved; there is no other choice. The saved person is "delivered from the power of darkness," and God "has transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son" (Col. 1:13). The LORD God Himself has provided the only acceptable cure demanded by an infinitely pure and holy God.

God is the sole author of our salvation. We are lost in the "power of darkness" of sin until God transforms us. The god of this world has blinded the minds of those who have not believed on Christ (2 Cor. 4:3-4). When we are born spiritually, our spiritual eyes are illuminated and we see the light of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Our minds, hearts, and volition come under the influence and power of the Holy Spirit and we are changed from the inside out.

The greatest thing an infinite God can do for man is to transform him from one who hates God to a lover of God. He takes us from an estate of hostility to God to one in which we are "conformed to the image of His Son." Salvation transforms us to be "like Christ."

"For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God" (Ephesians 2:8). Ω

Have a need? Contact one of the officers.

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Alex Cesal, Deacon/Treasurer

If you have a request for the prayer chain contact

Branda Church 221-9206 and if not available,

Kelleigh Anderson 635-2578 or send an email to

churchfamily@outlook.com.

**Finally, brethren, Be perfect,
be of good comfort, be of
one mind, live in peace;
and the God of love and
peace shall be with you.
Hallelujah, Amen**