

have the responsibility of seeking God and His saving truth. And the beauty of it is, we can find the saving truth if we will seek it with all honesty: please read Matthew 7:7; Luke 8:15; John 8:31,32.

What If I Am Lost? How much time do I have left? Of a certain rich man we learn: “But God said unto him, *Thou* fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? ²¹So *is* he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God” (Luke 12:20,21). **No one is promised another minute of life on earth and at best, life on earth is very short:** “Whereas ye know not what *shall be* on the morrow. For what *is* your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away” (James 4:14). The admonition continues: “(For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now *is* the accepted time; behold, now *is* the day of salvation.)” (2 Cor. 6:2). Many have delayed in obeying the gospel of Christ beyond the point of no return. As an old favorite hymn says, “there is danger and death in delay.”

Look around you and consider how many people die every day: some very young, old, and of every age. Every gospel preacher can tell you of those who “planned” to “get right with God,” but did not act immediately and time ran out on them! They died in their sins and because of that they are assigned to a devil’s hell forever and ever.

What if I am Lost, but think I am saved? This is a most sad and serious state and many there are who abide in this terrible condition. Many think they have eternal life and are so closed-minded they will not even consider the possibility of themselves being lost. What a very terrible condition!!! Satan almost certainly has them for an eternity in the flames of hell! And if they die in this state Satan does in fact have them! **They are so certain of their salvation that they will not even do as God says:** “Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates” (2 Cor. 13:5)? It is amazing how they can even begin to think they are saved whenever they will not hear and obey God in this point.

Jesus encountered many who thought they were saved but were not. Here is one example: Jesus said, “Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of

me. ⁴⁰And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life” (John 5:39). We have this sad account of the Day of Judgment:

“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. ²²Many 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? ²³And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity” (Matt. 7:21-23).

As far as we can tell, these people were honest and sincere, but it is clear that they were sincerely wrong! It is very likely these lost ones did not consider that they were lost while they were living on earth (see above, 2 Cor. 13:5). Had they, they surely could have learned the truth (John 8:31,32). Friends, I beg you, do not wait another hour: seek the truth. It is far better to know now than when it is forever too late!!! Life is very serious. We need to learn about life now (John 6:63,68).

What If I Am Lost? What must I do to be saved? In order to be saved (born again) man must **hear** the truth, **believe** the truth (Rom. 10:17) and obey the truth (Heb. 5:9): which includes **repenting** of sins (Luke 13:3), **confessing** Christ (Matt.10:32,33), and **baptism** “for the remission of sins” (Acts 2:38; 22:16; 1 Peter 3:21; Mark 16:16, etc.).

Paul said to the Romans that they “were made free from sin” **when they obeyed** “that form of doctrine,” which is the gospel (Rom. 6:17,18 cp. 1 Peter 1:22-25). **It is a most beautiful picture when you read and accept what the Bible teaches on this matter.**

- **Jesus** died for our sins – we are to die to sin (that is **repent**, cp. Rom. 6:6,11; Luke 13:3);
- **Jesus** was buried – we are to be buried with Him by **baptism** (Rom. 6:4; Col. 2:12);
- **Jesus** was raised from the dead – when we submit to scriptural baptism we are raised from that watery grave, by the power of God, to newness of life (Rom. 6:4,5; Col. 2:12).

We are then in Christ where all spiritual blessings are found (Eph. 1:3,7); and have that glorious hope of Heaven. Why, dear friend, would anyone want to remain on the outside of Christ and His church??? Please come. We are here to help you. ♥