



Looking To the Universal Savior

“True North” Series - #3

What Do We Believe?

Article III. Statement of Faith

5. We believe that man was created in the image of God by direct creation and that he sinned and thereby incurred both physical and spiritual death; thus; we believe that all men by birth and nature are sinners and, apart from Christ, shall be forever separated from God.

What Did Jesus Teach?

(Luke 15)

Things Become Lost

“Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them.”(vs. 4)

Jesus teaches that things do become lost. Even in the best of situations people wander off, become “misplaced”, decide on their own they don’t like things where they are.

Lost Things Are Important to Their Owners

“Does he not leave the 99... and go after the lost sheep until he finds it?”(vs. 4)

The shepherd gave priority to the one lost sheep; the woman focused her attention on the one lost coin; the father watched and waited hopefully for the wayward son. Lost people are very important to God!

Finding Lost Things Brings Joy to The Owners

“When he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders...then he calls his friends and neighbors... and says, ‘Rejoice with me. I have found my lost sheep!’”

God Loves When Lost People are Found

“There is rejoicing in the presence of the angels.. over one sinner who repents.”

Jesus gives a glimpse into heaven as he shows the reaction of the angels when someone who has been lost is found. It’s a celestial celebration! What we find worthy of celebration and what heaven finds worthy of celebration causes us to evaluate if what we get so excited about should really be Top Priority!

What Do We Believe?

Article III. Statement of Faith

6. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures as a representative and substitutionary sacrifice, that all who believe on Him are justified on the ground of his shed blood.

7. We believe that salvation is by grace through faith, not of works, and that all who receive by faith the Lord Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior are born again of the Holy Spirit, thereby becoming children of God.

What Does This Mean?

Limited Numbers are “Found”

There are still many people who need to be found by the Savior! Despite the prevalent thinking that everybody is pretty much OK (except for the “really bad people”) the Bible teaches that many more are lost than realize it.

“Lost” Fall into Two Categories

To help us formulate an effective strategy to reach lost people with the good news of Christ we need to realize that

some who are lost are fine with their lostness. They are having a good time in life (for now) and resent anyone who wants to “save” them from their situation. These are the “secular lost.”

1. Secular-Lost

2. Religious-Lost

There are others who are going through life with the belief that if they are religious (trying to be good, going to church, doing church-kinds-of-things) they’re in good shape with God. These may be open to hearing a different approach to salvation or they may not. We must know our audience.

Challenge is Same = RESCUE!

Those who have been “found” by the Savior can’t rest in the fact that they are rescued. Jesus commands us to be proactive – reaching out in as many ways as possible – because of the lostness of people that He deeply loves!

This outline is of the message presented on September 26th by Pastor Mark Coughlin at Immanuel Church of Forest Lake, Minnesota.

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