

*Are You Saved
or Lost?*

L. R. SCARBOROUGH, D.D.

Sunday School Board
Southern Baptist Convention
Nashville, Tenn.

EVANGELISTIC SERIES

This is one of a series of brief tracts presenting the claims of Christ to the unconverted and the duty of those who have surrendered to Christ. This series put up in sets, with fifteen copies of each tract, will be sent free to pastors on application, or copies of separate tracts can be had on request. If this tract is helpful to any one we shall be glad to know of it.

Are You Saved or Lost?

L. R. SCARBOROUGH, D.D.

ARE you Saved or Lost?

Who is the Unsaved Man? God's Word uses several terms or ideas describing him, such as "the transgressor of the law," "the unrighteous man," "unbelievers," "sinners," "rejectors of Jesus," "dead in trespasses and sins," "lost." It plainly teaches that "all have sinned and come short of the glory of God," "that they are conceived in sin and born in iniquity," that none are righteous, that man goes astray from the womb, that the heart of man is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked, that men of themselves "are whited sepulchers and full of dead men's bones and all unrighteousness." Its message is clear that man has nothing in himself, no merit of righteousness, that can save him from his innate and inherited taint of sin, nor can he of himself do or perform any act of righteousness by which he will purchase the favor and pardon of God.

Paul says; Rom. 3: 20, "Therefore by the deeds of the law shall no flesh be justified in his sight." Isaiah says, 64: 6, "We are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousness are as filthy rags."

* * *

John 3: 1 and 36, says, "He that believeth not is condemned already," "He that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him." Paul says, in Eph. 2: 12, "Ye were without Christ, aliens, strangers, having no hope and without God."

* * *

These Scriptures and many others indicate that the unsaved man's condition before God is unspeakably bad, and that he must have outside and powerful help if he is saved. They teach that neither morality, nor charity, nor sincerity of purpose, nor any self or low righteousness will save a man. They show that neither joining a church, submitting to an ordinance, nor confession to a priest, nor the manipulations of ecclesiastical tricks, nor anything of this kind will either save, help save, or keep saved. The plain teaching of Scripture is that every man is lost, undone in sin and without hope, helplessly involved in eternal ruin and deserves and receives God's wrath unless he trusts himself by an act of heart-faith in repenting submission to Jesus Christ as his

personal Saviour. The unsaved man then is he who has not personally accepted by faith Christ as Lord and Saviour.



What is the Peril of the Unsaved Man?
Has he any security or safety in his sins? No, a thousand times no. He walks every hour in mortal danger. His moments are all in risk and peril. God tells him in Jer. 23: 12, that he "stands on slippery glass in the darkness," and in Deut. 32: 35, that his "foot shall slide in due time," that "the things that shall come upon" him "make haste," and in Isaiah 14: 9, that "hell from beneath is moved to meet thee at thy coming." God warns him in Prov. 29: 1, "He that being oft reprov'd hardeneth his neck shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy."

Do you not know that you are in imminent peril? Do you not feel the tug of death at your vitals every day, either in some inward disease or some outward danger? You can not guarantee your own life one hour ahead. There is no eternal safety out of Christ, and you are taking mortal risks and imperiling your eternal interests every moment you delay a personal surrender to Christ. Can you afford to take such chances? You do not do it with your property and your home. You insure them, but you let your eternal soul go without any

protection. Christ's imputed righteousness given you by your faith in him is God's insurance against spiritual destruction. Meet this vital issue squarely and take care of your soul!

* * *

What is the Unsaved Soul's Destiny? Without Christ in the heart what is ahead beyond death? No other book than the Bible can tell us. The Bible has not left us in the dark. It clearly tells. Job. (21: 30), David (Ps. 9: 17), Isaiah (14: 9), Daniel (12: 2), Matthew (25: 41), Luke (16: 23), John (3: 36), Paul (2 Thes. 1: 7-10), and Jesus (Luke 13: 3) tell us that eternal exclusion from the presence of God is the destiny of the unbelieving soul. There are 234 verses in the New Testament alone which warn, instruct, persuade and exhort men about hell and eternal death. Much more is said in God's Word about hell, eternal death, and everlasting punishment than is said about heaven and everlasting life. The man who tries to deceive you about hell is the enemy of your soul. God is faithful to warn you. You had far better take his word about it than to follow what any man says and thus risk your chances in the great eternity ahead.

* * *

What is your destiny now? It is either heaven through faith in Christ or it is hell through sin and unbelief.

What must you do to be saved? Seeing your condition before God, your peril in sin and your destiny without Christ, what must you do to escape and be saved?

In June, 1896, two fast passenger trains met on the same track near New York City. Twenty-eight men were killed in the terrible wreck. Amid the cries and groans of the wounded and dying someone saw the engineer of one of the wrecked trains lying pinned under his burning engine waving in his last strength a piece of yellow paper, and in his dying words he said, "Someone gave me the wrong orders." My friend, as you and I face eternity amid the wreckage and ruin of sin about us, I do not wish to give you the wrong orders. I am willing to stand with you in the shimmering light of God's white throne on the answer I give you now. You cannot save yourself. Neither your good deeds nor your mortal life will save, or help to save you.



No church can save you. No ordinance, neither baptism nor the Lord's Supper, nor both combined can save you. No pope, nor priest, nor preacher, nor anything they can do or say or pray can save you. No penance, nor self-imposed punishment will save you.

No resolution nor reformation can save you. No creed nor confessional nor christening can save you.

Only *One* can save you—Jesus Christ *alone* can save. He can, he will if you will let him. He is an *able* Saviour. He is a *ready* Saviour. He is a *willing* Saviour. He can save you *now*. He died, he arose from the dead, he lives, he reigns to save you *now*. His love is boundless and free. His grace full of mercy flows in great floods out toward your soul. He calls to you through his word, his providence, his people, his divine Spirit to surrender your heart's faith and love to him.

He cares not how great nor how many your sins are. He says, "Though they be red like crimson they shall be as wool." He cares not how far away you have wandered, he will pardon and forgive. "Him that cometh unto me I will in no wise cast out," is his loving call. "*He* is able to save unto the uttermost all that come unto God by him." There is no case too hard for Christ.



In a Texas town a great meeting was in progress. In a testimony meeting many anxious Christians asked prayer for a man whom they called the hardest man in South Texas. The preacher found out his name. He was a hard case. He had run Satan's gauntlet of sin. On Sunday morning, the first time in nine years, he came to church. He sat back in the crowd with his wife and

grown daughter, who were both unsaved. This hard man had been much on the preacher's heart, so much that the night before was a sleepless night. Hours had been spent in prayers and tears for this lost man. The preacher preached that day on the blood of Christ and its power to save. While he preached, the wife and daughter of the hard man were saved. When the invitation to seek Christ was given, this man tremblingly came to the front seat. At the call of the preacher hundreds of men came to kneel about this lost man to pray for him. When the prayer was over this lost man said to the preacher, "For twenty-five years my heart has been as black as hell. I want to know if your Christ can save a man such as I am." The preacher said, "If you will trust yourself unreservedly to Jesus Christ and turn from all your sins, he will give you eternal life and cleanse your heart from all sin." He said then, "I trust him and take him now as my personal Saviour." That has been many years ago, and that man is living now for Christ in beautiful service. My friend, he will save you if you trust him.

* * *

He will save you now if you surrender absolutely to him. He says, "The day thou seekest me with thine *whole heart*, then will I be found of thee."

He will not consider a conditional surrender; it is an absolute and unconditional surrender to the Lord Jesus Christ such as Priest, Prophet and King, that bring salvation and joy of service. You must take him as your Lord if you are to have him as your Priest and Teacher. I urge you now to give up every sin, break down every barrier, hold back nothing from him, but give yourself, without any reservation, over to the Lord Jesus Christ, and he will flood your soul with his glorious salvation.



The child in tender age, the modest woman, the moral man, the infidel, the drunkard, the man down-and-out or up-and-out, anyone who comes to him in repentance, and faith, can be saved on the spot. Surrender to him now. Surrender all! Give up your sins, your doubts, your difficulties, your all. Accept Jesus Christ, believe in him, trust him and do it now, and heaven will come into your soul and will finally be your home. Do it now for Christ's sake.

