

Lesson 4

# WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE LOST

Compiled by Darrell Crow based upon personal studies, notes and prayer.

Darrell Crow

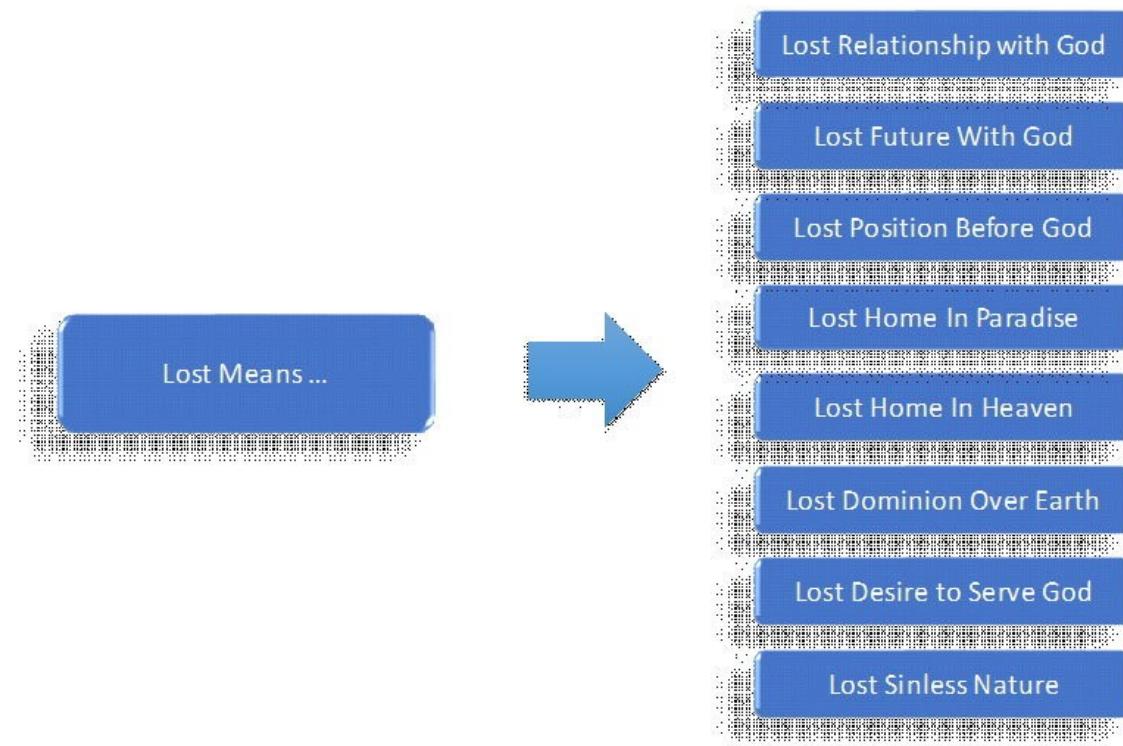
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# WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE LOST?

We read throughout the Bible that man is a sinner and therefore cannot enter heaven and spend eternity with God Almighty, creator of all things, invisible and visible, including man.

How did we ever get lost and what does lost mean?

The Bible says in the beginning God created Adam and Eve and the world they lived in. When man was first created, he was perfect, with a close relationship with God. He lived in a perfect paradise that was characterized as a garden. They had perfect communion with each other, with God Almighty and their world. Life was perfect and good. Man was given full reign of Paradise but with some rules. The one we're aware of is do not eat of the fruit of the tree of knowledge. Man chose to ignore God's law, disobeyed God and ate of the fruit. Sin entered into mankind and we have 'lost' our relationship with God Almighty and we "lost" our position before God, and we "lost" our Godly nature (which was now converted to a sinful nature and openly rebelled against God) and subsequently "lost" our future in heaven with God.



Let's take a moment to read the most beautiful construction story ever known....

*Genesis 1:1-31 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. <sup>2</sup> The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters. <sup>3</sup> Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. <sup>4</sup> God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup> God called the light day, and the darkness He called night. And there was evening and there was morning, one day.*

*<sup>6</sup> Then God said, "Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." <sup>7</sup> God made the expanse, and separated the waters which were below the expanse from the waters which were above the expanse; and it was so. <sup>8</sup> God called the expanse heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, a second day.*

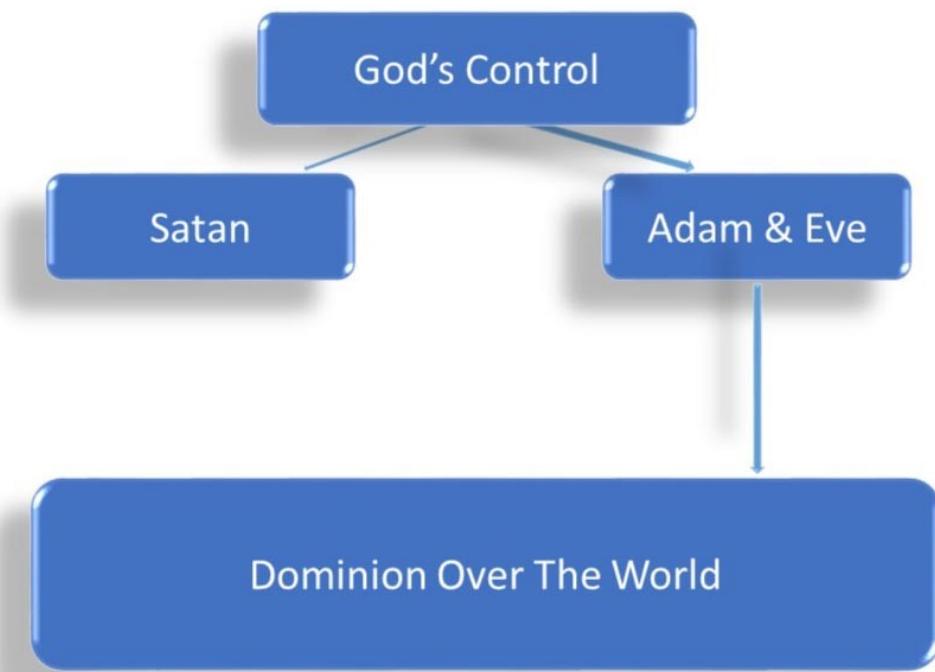
<sup>9</sup> Then God said, “Let the waters below the heavens be gathered into one place, and let the dry land appear”; and it was so. <sup>10</sup> God called the dry land earth, and the gathering of the waters He called seas; and God saw that it was good. <sup>11</sup> Then God said, “Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees on the earth bearing fruit after their kind with seed in them”; and it was so. <sup>12</sup> The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed after their kind, and trees bearing fruit with seed in them, after their kind; and God saw that it was good. <sup>13</sup> There was evening and there was morning, a third day.

<sup>14</sup> Then God said, “Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years; <sup>15</sup> and let them be for lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth”; and it was so. <sup>16</sup> God made the two great lights, the greater light to govern the day, and the lesser light to govern the night; He made the stars also. <sup>17</sup> God placed them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth, <sup>18</sup> and to govern the day and the night, and to separate the light from the darkness; and God saw that it was good. <sup>19</sup> There was evening and there was morning, a fourth day.

<sup>20</sup> Then God said, “Let the waters teem with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth in the open expanse of the heavens.” <sup>21</sup> God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarmed after their kind, and every winged bird after its kind; and God saw that it was good. <sup>22</sup> God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” <sup>23</sup> There was evening and there was morning, a fifth day.

<sup>24</sup> Then God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures after their kind: cattle and creeping things and beasts of the earth after their kind”; and it was so. <sup>25</sup> God made the beasts of the earth after their kind, and the cattle after their kind, and everything that creeps on the ground after its kind; and God saw that it was good.

<sup>26</sup> Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” <sup>27</sup> God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. <sup>28</sup> God blessed them; and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” <sup>29</sup> Then God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the surface of all the earth, and every tree which has fruit yielding seed; it shall be food for you; <sup>30</sup> and to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the sky and to every thing that moves on the earth which has life, I have given every green plant for food”; and it was so. <sup>31</sup> God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.



Man's initial position when he was in Paradise in a perfect relationship with God Almighty.

Genesis 3 describes the "Fall" of mankind from God's Grace to becoming a sinner.

(Genesis 3) Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Indeed, has God said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden'?"<sup>2</sup> The woman said to the serpent, "From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat;<sup>3</sup> but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die.'"<sup>4</sup> The serpent said to the woman, "You surely will not die!<sup>5</sup> For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."<sup>6</sup> When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate.<sup>7</sup> Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings.

They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.<sup>9</sup> Then the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?"<sup>10</sup> He said, "I heard the sound of You in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid myself."<sup>11</sup> And He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?"<sup>12</sup> The man said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me from the tree, and I ate."<sup>13</sup> Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" And the woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."<sup>14</sup> The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, Cursed are you more than all cattle, And more than every beast of the field; On your belly you will go, And dust you will eat All the days of your life;<sup>15</sup> And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel."<sup>1</sup>

<sup>6</sup> To the woman He said, "I will greatly multiply Your pain in childbirth, In pain you will bring forth children; Yet your desire will be for your husband, And he will rule over you."

<sup>17</sup> Then to Adam He said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree about which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat from it';

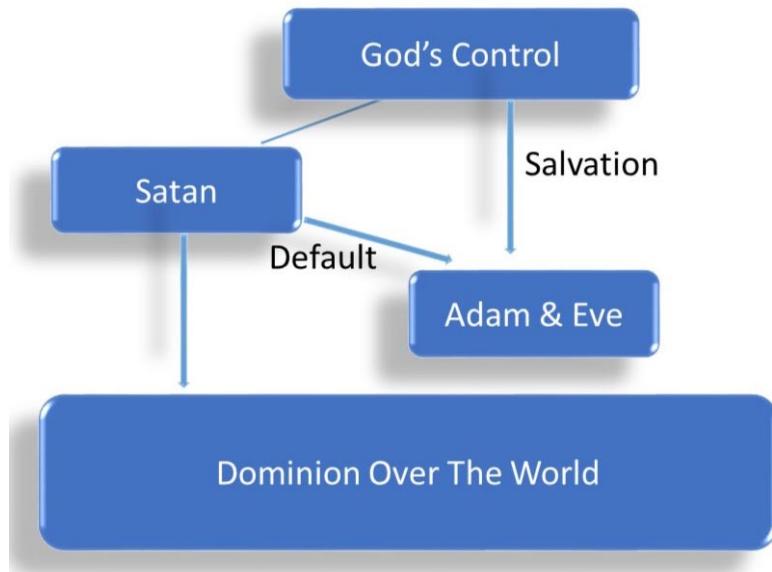
Cursed is the ground because of you; In toil you will eat of it All the days of your life.<sup>18</sup> Both thorns and this-tles it shall grow for you; And you will eat the plants of the field;<sup>19</sup> By the sweat of your face You will eat bread, Till you return to the ground, Because from it you were taken; For you are dust, And to dust you shall return."

<sup>20</sup> Now the man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all the living.<sup>21</sup> The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife, and clothed them.

<sup>22</sup> Then the LORD God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, knowing good and evil; and now, he might stretch out his hand, and take also from the tree of life, and eat, and live forever"—<sup>23</sup> therefore the LORD God sent him out from the garden of Eden, to cultivate the ground from which he was taken.<sup>24</sup> So He drove the man out; and at the east of the garden of Eden He stationed the cherubim and the flaming sword which turned every direction to guard the way to the tree of life.

We can note the following from this reading ....

- Eve was deceived by Satan and chose to sin.
- Eve shares with Adam her discussion with Satan and Adam chose to sin.
- Sin is punishable by physical and spiritual death.
- Physical death is the termination of life as we know it and being buried/cremated
- Spiritual death is eternal separation from God.
- Punishment for sin must be paid. This is an absolute truth that God requires.



Because of man's disobedience to God, Adam and Eve were cast out of Paradise into a whole new world totally different.

Therefore, man's position before God Almighty after the Fall of Man is Lost. Through man's disobedience to God he became lost. And man lost so much. Generations later man hardly thinks of God and no seeks God. We have become totally depraved in our sins. Any of us may not be as bad as we can be, but positionally our total race is as bad as it can be before God. We are lost.

Although God was quite displeased He took the initiative to restore man's position back to one of righteous before

### **Redeeming The Lost**



1. Problem: God created man for fellowship; however man sinned separating himself permanently from God.
2. Objective: Restore man from sin so God can fellowship with man.
3. Salvation Plan: Man Cannot Save himself. God sends His Son to pay penalty for man & become righteous
4. God knows all thing. All things are foreknown. All individuals are foreknown
5. Restoration Plan: Conform to Image of Christ & Adopted into God's family as sons.
6. Election: God's election of Who shall be saved And His universal call to all people for he is not willing for any To perish.

As a result of sin, Man no longer enjoyed perfect communion with each other, with God Almighty and their world. Satan became the new world ruler and by default all mankind was a 'citizen' of Satan's world and joint heir with the future punishment awaiting Satan.

Sin, as defined in the original translations of the Bible, means "to miss the mark." The mark, in this case, is the standard of perfection established by God and evidenced by Jesus. Viewed in this light, it is clear that we are all sinners. The Apostle Paul says in Romans 3:23: "*All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*"

Why does anyone need salvation and salvation from what to what?

- Genesis 1-2 describes the beginning of our universe, world and mankind.
- Genesis further describes the paradise given to "sinless" Adam & Eve and their obligations
- God said man will die physically and spiritually. The natural course of life today is birth, growth, maturity, death. No one who is born can escape the end of the eventual process -- death.

Physical 'life' means to be living, breathing, conscience and fellowshipping with others within this physical world as we know it. It therefore would logically mean that being Spiritually 'alive' means to be living, and fellowshipping with God as Adam and Eve once enjoyed in Paradise.

When one is physically dead, they can no longer communicate with other living physical beings. Physical death has terminated this privilege and judgement now awaits. Spiritual death also terminates the ability of an individual to live and fellowship with God Almighty.

The problem is that when we are born into physical life we are also born into Spiritual death.

This is what Jesus was telling Nicodemus in *John 3:1-8*

*Now there was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews; <sup>2</sup> this man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, “Rabbi, we know that You have come from God as a teacher; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him.” <sup>3</sup> Jesus answered and said to him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.”*

<sup>4</sup> Nicodemus said to Him, “How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born, can he?” <sup>5</sup> Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. <sup>6</sup> That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup> Do not be amazed that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ <sup>8</sup> The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going; so is everyone who is born of the Spirit.

So what about the second part of God’s judgment: Spiritual death: In Ephesians 2:1 we read *And you were dead in your trespasses and sins*

The Bible is clear that when we were born, we were born into Spiritual death. If at physical death, we are still spiritually dead, than we cannot inherit the Kingdom of God according to Jesus. We must be born of the water (physical life) and the Spirit (the Holy Spirit). If at physical death, we are spiritually alive, than we inherit the Kingdom of God. In some miraculous fashion, our position before God changes at Spiritual birth.

We are therefore born into physical life but spiritually dead.

- This is the fundamental reason we are unable to save ourselves.
- A physically dead man cannot climb out of his own grave and live again.
- A spiritually dead person cannot save himself/herself
- Being spiritually “Dead” means dead toward God – unable to communicate with him. Many rightfully say, man is depraved (about as bad off as one can get.) in their standing (position) before God.
- The sinless spirit that Adam & Eve had in the Garden of Eden was made “dead” by Sin.
- All mankind ‘inherits’ the sin nature from Adam & Eve, thus all mankind is ‘lost’ from birth.
- To be saved means to be restored eternally to God as in Adam and Eve’s original position.
- Man cannot save himself.
- The punishment for sin requires eternal, spiritual death
- We have no ability to live a perfect, sinless life and ‘earn’ our way to heaven.
- God must give us new life through Spiritual birth if we are to be reunited with Him.

Jesus said *“For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”* (Luke 19:10). In Jesus teachings through parables He spoke about the ‘lost’ sheep, the ‘lost’ coin, the ‘lost’ son.

The apostle Paul wrote *And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing,* (2 Cor 4:3)

To be lost is one of the Biblical terms used to describe man’s position or standing before God prior to personal salvation. This is God’s assessment of the natural man.

This implies that ...

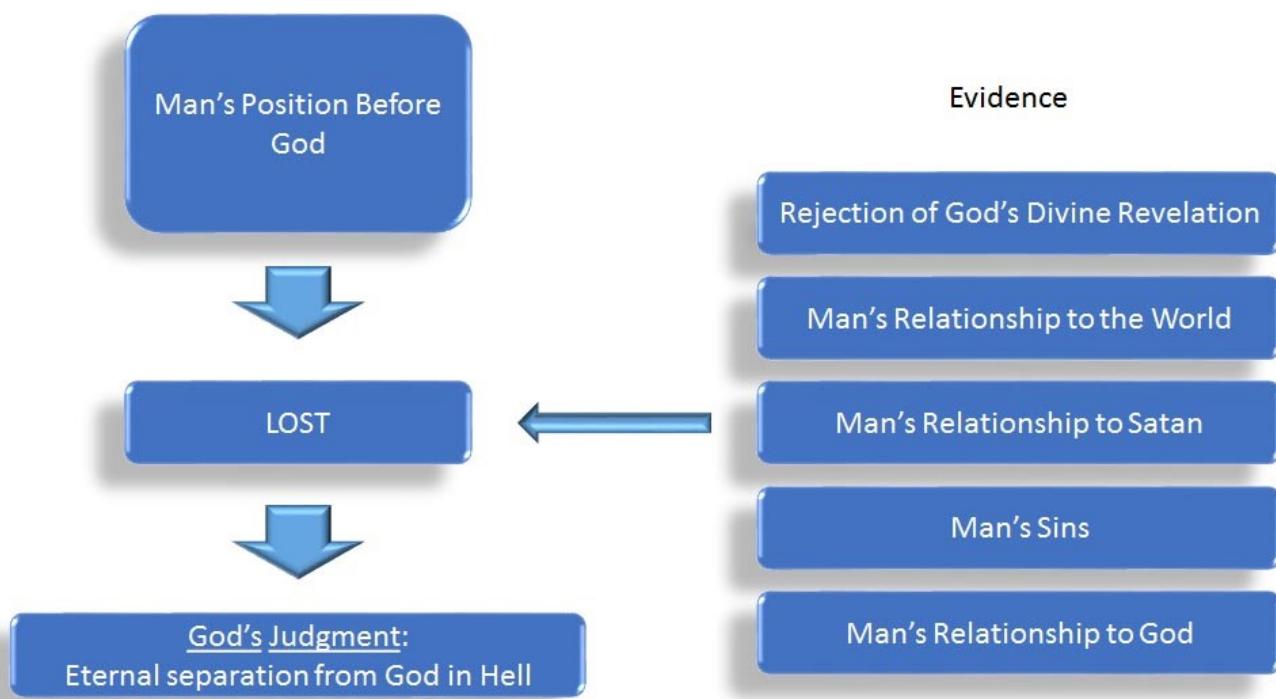
- Man is in a desperate condition
- Man can do nothing to rescue himself from his position before God.
- The ‘lost’ man is unaware of his spiritual position until he is convicted of his moral plight by the Holy Spirit.

So the first step in understanding man's position before Almighty God is to explore the actual position and how it was obtained. This is the position one is rescued from as a result of 'salvation'. Once we comprehend more fully our salvation from a 'lost' position, than a proper consideration of whether or not a Christian can lose his salvation can be undertaken.

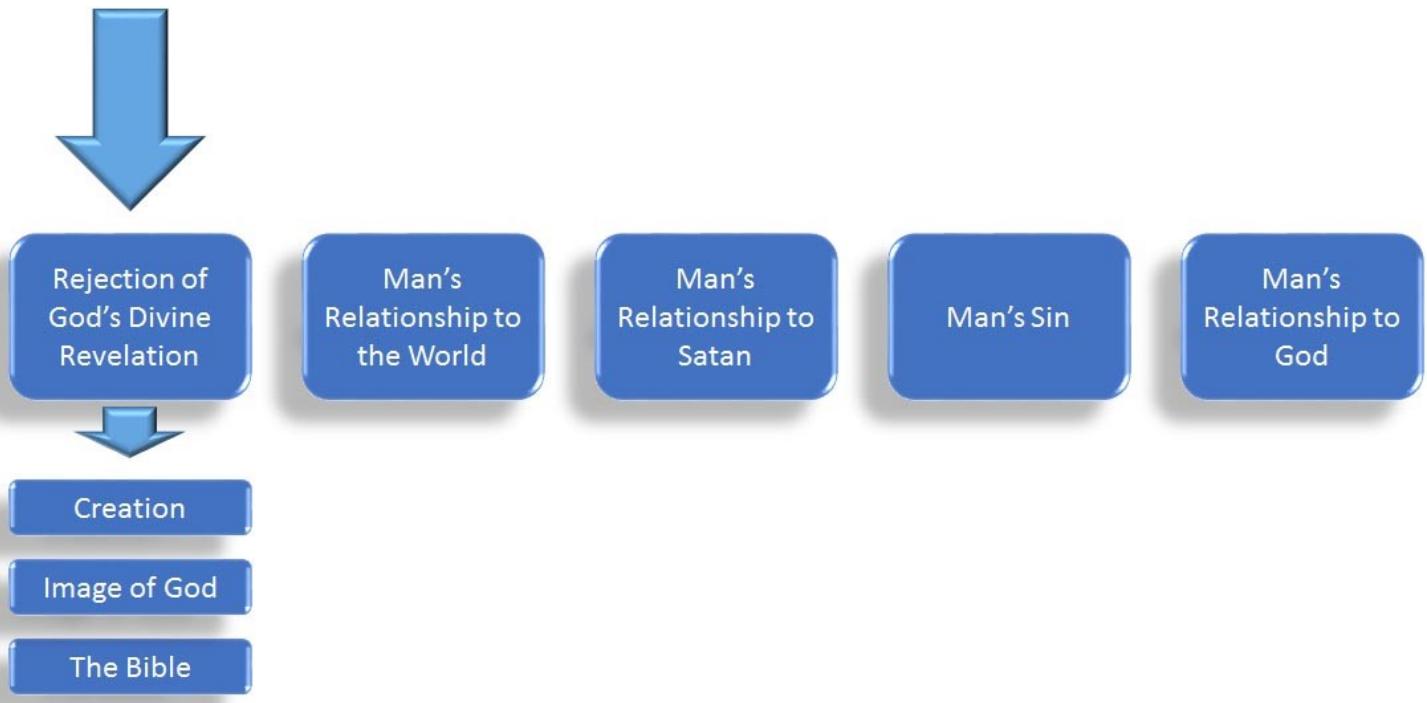
In investigating why man is guilty before God, I shall look at the following 'evidence' brought forth by God in the Bible that renders God's verdict. I find five "counts" God charges man in His court.

- Man is Guilty before God because man has 'rejected' God's Divine revelation of Himself
- Man is Guilty before God because man's relationship to the world condemns them.
- Man is Guilty before God because man's relationship to Satan condemns them.
- Man is Guilty before God because man sins. (any lack of conformity to the character and will of God)

**Let's be absolutely clear about one specific point:  
to lose one's salvation means that a person must  
return exactly and completely to the position  
which he once had before God prior to salvation;  
not just a partial 'lost' condition, but to a total  
'lost' condition. Thus a full understanding of the  
'lost' (unsaved) position is imperative in order to  
understand salvation.**



# FIRST COUNT OF LOST: Man's Rejection Of Divine Revelation Condemns Him.



## Count 1.1 Man Has Rejected The Divine Revelation Inherent In God's Creation

Divine revelation is truth that God has revealed or communicated to man. *God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways,<sup>2</sup> in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. (Hebrews 1:1-2)*

God is emphasizing that since creation, He has revealed truth about Himself and His will at different times in various ways. All of mankind individually have received some form of divine revelation. God holds men accountable for this revelation which means His revelation (His truth) is not just to be learned, but also to be acted upon.. Knowledge of truth must be followed by action.

God has revealed Himself through His creation and made His creation evident to man. Why did God reveal Himself through His creation of the world, through His creation of mankind? Simply this, to admit the existence of a God who created them would imply moral responsibility to God, their creator. Man therefore has rejected God's revelation and suppressed the truth because they do not want to change their behavior. They even resort to justifying their position through intellectual honesty and scientific observation.

I once had the privilege of being one of 8 individuals selected to spend a spring day with Dr. Stephen Hawking in the 1980's when he toured New England. We discussed his Big Bang theory, the meaning of life, and what constitutes a successful life, the origin of all life, etc... This man is adamant that there is no God, that out of nothing a part of the universe collapsed to the point that it snapped and life suddenly appeared. He was not an atheist. He was an agnostic. He was not interested in proving that God existed or didn't exist. He simply wasn't going to consider the possibility of the existence of Almighty God. To do so would have meant he had a moral responsibility toward God. He therefore refused to acknowledge God's divine revelation.

The heathen in the backward countries have the same position as Dr. Hawking or any sophisticated intellectual, or for that matter, most of mankind today. Heathens typically do not deny the existence of deity when they observe nature, they simply worship many gods. He changes the glory of God Almighty to images and articles that they have created themselves. God therefor holds heathens accountable because they live their entire lives without acknowledging the true God of nature. They will share the same fate of being condemned by God and spending eternity in hell separated from God.

Man is foolish by denying or perverting the truth of God's divine revelation. Consider these verses...

- *Ps 139:14 I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Wonderful are Your works, And my soul knows it very well.*
- *Psalm 19:1 The heavens are telling of the glory of God; And their expanse is declaring the work of His hands. The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God."*
- *Ps 14:1 They are corrupt, they have committed abominable deeds; There is no one who does good.*
- *Rom 1:18-23 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, (19) because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. (20) For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. (21) For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. (22) Professing to be wise, they became fools, (23) and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures.*

### **Divine Revelation Includes Being Created In The Image Of God**

In Genesis 1:26-27, God reveals and describes how He created man, “*Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”*<sup>27</sup> *God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.*”

Therefore God permanently burned His image onto all of mankind. In Genesis 9:26 we learn that this image is still retained by man, even after the fall of man into sin. “*Whoever sheds man’s blood, By man his blood shall be shed, For in the image of God He made man.* The image of God in man must reflects truth about the nature and character of God.

What is this image that man carries? Is it be physical, spiritual, or soulful? How can we see this image? I cannot conceive that the physical body is God's image as our bodies' age and decay, nor do I see a physical ‘God Mark’ on our physical bodies. God does not age or decay. God is the same as yesterday, today, and tomorrow. The image of God must refer to man's soul or spirit. The Bible confirms this conclusion in John 4:24 *God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.*” God has given us intellect, emotion, will, and a moral personality that is a conscience, an indicator of right and wrong. The later not only separates the physical body from the spirit, but also separates mankind from the rest of God's creation.

As man looks into his inner self, either casually or through a psychological study, he is aware that he is a moral being and a created being. Where does this awareness come from? Where did the idea of ‘good and evil’ originate? It came from the image of God that was affixed to each man. Man should conclude that God has created him. Therefore man is morally accountable to God since God has revealed Himself by ‘stamping’ His image on every single human.

Unfortunately, man reacts to his conscience, his sense of right and wrong, not by giving worship to God, rather in ‘blaming’ someone else. Man has that uncanny knack of blaming others to justify his/her own actions. Adam blamed Eve, Eve blamed the serpent, so who does the serpent blame? God. Man therefore rejects the truth of God’s holy personality whenever he ‘blames’ or finds ‘excuses’ for his own actions. Romans 2:1 confirms this. *Therefore you have no excuse, everyone of you who passes judgment, for in that which you judge another, you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things.*

## Divine Revelation Includes The Bible

All scripture is the inspired word of God. 2 Tim 3:16 says, *All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;* In other words, the Bible is exactly what God would say directly to man if He were using this form of revelation today.

2 Peter 1:20-21 clearly notes that God wrote the Bible and not man. *But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one’s own interpretation,<sup>21</sup> for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.*

God directed men by the Holy Spirit to write what He wanted to communicate in human language, words capable of being understood by man. Review the following verses:

- *Romans 3:2 Great in every respect. First of all, that they were entrusted with the oracles of God*
- *Exodus 20:2-7 Then God spoke all these words, saying, I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.*
- <sup>3</sup> “*You shall have no other gods before Me.*
- <sup>4</sup> “*You shall not make for yourself an idol, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth.*
- <sup>5</sup> “*You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate Me, <sup>6</sup> but showing lovingkindness to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.*
- <sup>7</sup> “*You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not leave him unpunished who takes His name in vain.*
- <sup>8</sup> “*Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. <sup>9</sup> Six days you shall labor and do all your work, <sup>10</sup> but the seventh day is a sabbath of the LORD your God; in it you shall not do any work, you or your son or your daughter, your male or your female servant or your cattle or your sojourner who stays with you. <sup>11</sup> For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and made it holy.*
- <sup>12</sup> “*Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be prolonged in the land which the LORD your God gives you.*
- <sup>13</sup> “*You shall not murder.*
- <sup>14</sup> “*You shall not commit adultery.*
- <sup>15</sup> “*You shall not steal.*
- <sup>16</sup> “*You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.*
- <sup>17</sup> “*You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife or his male servant or his female servant or his ox or his donkey or anything that belongs to your neighbor.”*
- <sup>18</sup> *All the people perceived the thunder and the lightning flashes and the sound of the trumpet and the mountain smoking; and when the people saw it, they trembled and stood at a distance. <sup>19</sup> Then they said to Moses, “Speak to us yourself and we will listen; but let not God speak to us, or we will die.” <sup>20</sup> Moses said to the people, “Do not be afraid; for God has come in order to test you, and in order that the fear of Him may remain with you, so that you may not sin.” <sup>21</sup> So the people stood at a distance, while Moses approached the thick cloud where God was.*

- <sup>22</sup> Then the LORD said to Moses, “Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, ‘You yourselves have seen that I have spoken to you from heaven.’ <sup>23</sup> You shall not make other gods besides Me; gods of silver or gods of gold, you shall not make for yourselves. <sup>24</sup> You shall make an altar of earth for Me, and you shall sacrifice on it your burnt offerings and your peace offerings, your sheep and your oxen; in every place where I cause My name to be remembered, I will come to you and bless you. <sup>25</sup> If you make an altar of stone for Me, you shall not build it of cut stones, for if you wield your tool on it, you will profane it. <sup>26</sup> And you shall not go up by steps to My altar, so that your nakedness will not be exposed on it.’
- Deuteronomy 18:15-22 “The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your countrymen, you shall listen to him. <sup>16</sup> This is according to all that you asked of the LORD your God in Horeb on the day of the assembly, saying, ‘Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God, let me not see this great fire anymore, or I will die.’ <sup>17</sup> The LORD said to me, ‘They have spoken well. <sup>18</sup> I will raise up a prophet from among their countrymen like you, and I will put My words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. <sup>19</sup> It shall come about that whoever will not listen to My words which he shall speak in My name, I Myself will require it of him. <sup>20</sup> But the prophet who speaks a word presumptuously in My name which I have not commanded him to speak, or which he speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die.’ <sup>21</sup> You may say in your heart, ‘How will we know the word which the LORD has not spoken?’ <sup>22</sup> When a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD, if the thing does not come about or come true, that is the thing which the LORD has not spoken. The prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be afraid of him
- Deuteronomy 29:29 “The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our sons forever, that we may observe all the words of this law
- Luke 24:44 Now He said to them, “These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.”
- John 5:46 For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me, for he wrote about Me.
- Luke 12:48 but the one who did not know it, and committed deeds worthy of a flogging, will receive but few. From everyone who has been given much, much will be required; and to whom they entrusted much, of him they will ask all the more.
- Matthew 11:20-24 Then He began to denounce the cities in which most of His miracles were done, because they did not repent. <sup>21</sup> “Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles had occurred in Tyre and Sidon which occurred in you, they would have repented long ago in sack-cloth and ashes. <sup>22</sup> Nevertheless I say to you, it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon in the day of judgment than for you. <sup>23</sup> And you, Capernaum, will not be exalted to heaven, will you? You will descend to Hades; for if the miracles had occurred in Sodom which occurred in you, it would have remained to this day. <sup>24</sup> Nevertheless I say to you that it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for you.

From the above verses we see that the nation of Israel enjoyed a special relationship to God. To them were committed the oracles of God. God gave His Ten Commandments in written form. His law through Moses were written in the first five books of the Old Testament. Israel knew more about God and His revealed truth, than any other nation, but Israel rejected this extra truth. Israel broke the law of God at its very inception; refusing to repent under the preaching ministry of the prophets; and ultimately rejected the very Messiah toward whom the Old Testament pointed.

In the same manner, today's world falls under the same indictment as Israel as Christians have gone forth spreading the word, distributing the Bible in most known languages for the past 2,000 years.

The Bible consists of the Old and New Testament. The Bible contains God's revelation of Creation, The Fall of man, God's special revelation to Israel, and the significance of Christ's person and redemptive work. The Bible gives to man God's total revelation of Himself and His program for the ages.

In spite of all that God has revealed of Himself in the Bible, modern man apparently considers the Bible as just another volume of ancient literature, containing primitive religious concepts and of little appeal or desire to investigate its teaching. And most who read God's word reject what they find. As noted in 1 Corinthians 2:14 <sup>14</sup>*But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.*

To reject the teachings of the Bible, is to reject the message of the cross whereby God offered up His only begotten Son as the propitiation for the sins of mankind, and brings additional condemnation to the unsaved man. *John 3:18 "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.*

God has divinely revealed Himself through ....

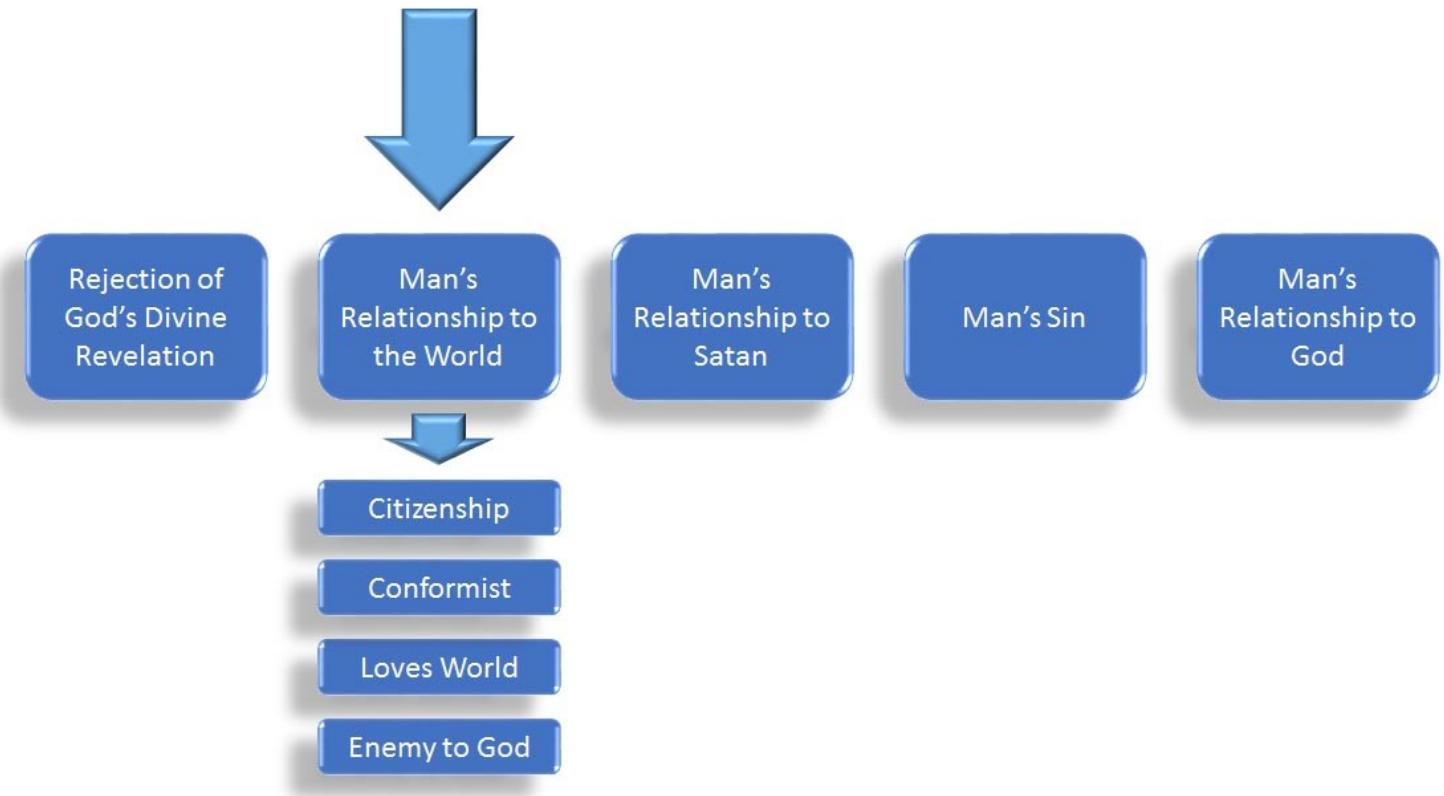
- Creation
- The image of God in man
- The Bible (Oral and written Word of God)

When man rejects God Almighty's Divine Revelation of Himself, God holds man accountable for this rejection.

**When man rejects God Almighty's Divine Revelation of Himself, God holds man accountable for this rejection.**

# SECOND COUNT OF LOST:

Man's Relationship To The World Condemns Him.



In John 15:19, Jesus notes ... *If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you."*

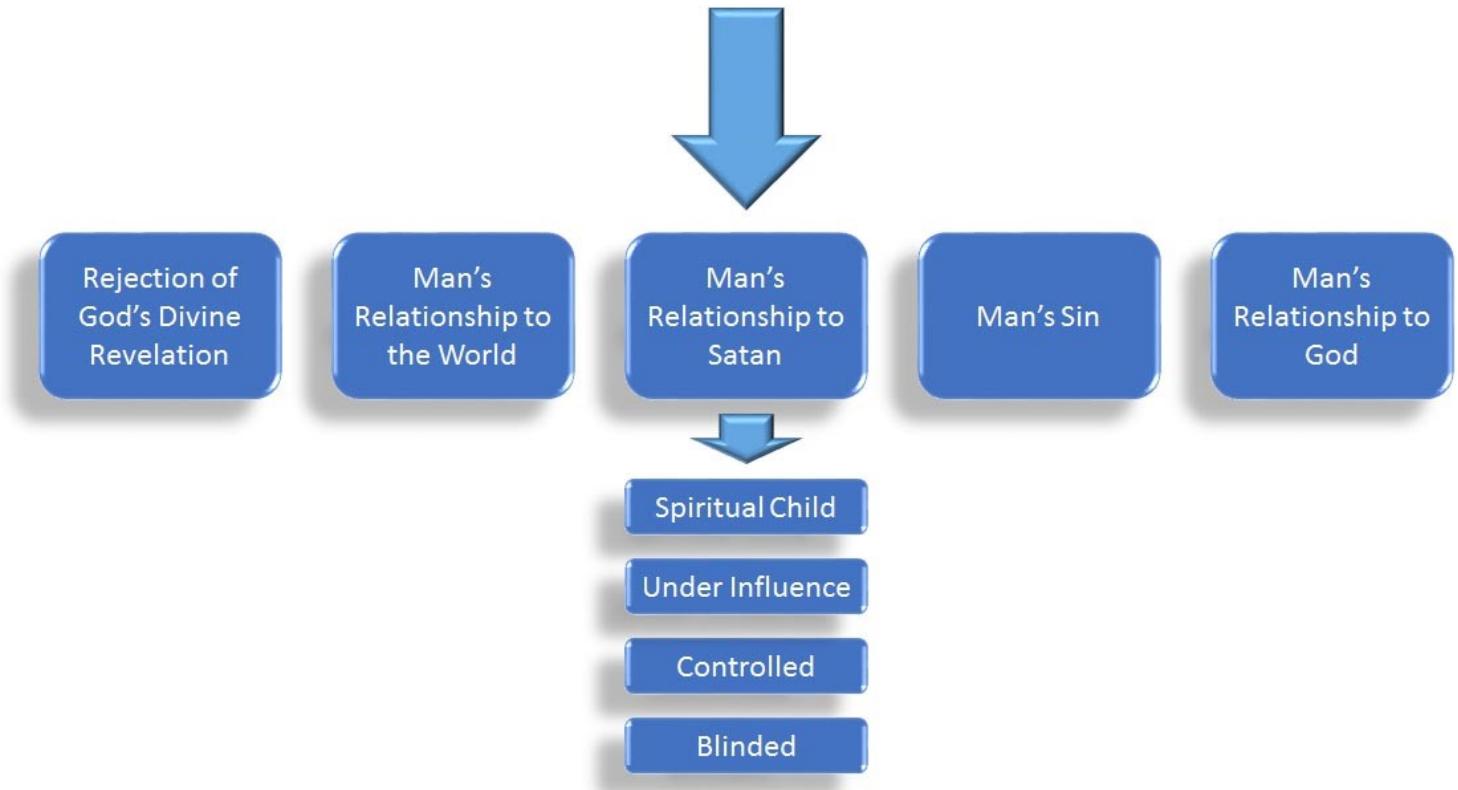
Therefore there are some immediate conclusions

- Unsaved people are citizens of this world.
- The unsaved love this world,
- The world citizens conform to the value system of this world. (*Ephesians 2:2 in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience*)
- The unsaved are opposed to all who are not part of it.
- This world system rejects God, hates Christ and consequentially hates all Christians
- The saved are not citizens of this world.

A saved person's citizenship is in heaven and not of this world. Therefore all saved people have been given to Christ. "*I have manifested Your name to the men whom You gave Me out of the world; they were Yours and You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word. (John 17:6)*

This world is ruled by Satan and his values, objectives, goals, hatred of God, and destructive behavior. These are the philosophies he confers upon its citizens. The world citizens are dominated by the philosophy of this age permeates every aspect of life including dress, diet, desires, money, power, authority, greed, morality, bias and prejudice, etc.... including the fact they have no desire to bring God into the center of their experiences. James 4: brings the message home that as long as a person remains a world citizen and conformer he is lost and an enemy of God. <sup>4</sup> *You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.*

# THIRD COUNT OF LOST: Man's Relationship With Satan Condemns Him.



Satan is real.

He was a created cherub who sinned against God.

*Ezekiel 28:12-19*

<sup>12</sup> “Son of man, take up a lamentation over the king of Tyre and say to him, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD,  
“You had the seal of perfection,  
Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.

<sup>13</sup> “You were in Eden, the garden of God;

*Every precious stone was your covering:*

*The ruby, the topaz and the diamond;*

*The beryl, the onyx and the jasper;*

*The lapis lazuli, the turquoise and the emerald;*

*And the gold, the workmanship of your settings and sockets,*

*Was in you.*

*On the day that you were created  
They were prepared.*

<sup>14</sup> “*You were the anointed cherub who covers,  
And I placed you there.*

*You were on the holy mountain of God;  
You walked in the midst of the stones of fire.*

<sup>15</sup> “*You were blameless in your ways  
From the day you were created  
Until unrighteousness was found in you.*

<sup>16</sup> “*By the abundance of your trade  
You were internally filled with violence,  
And you sinned;*

*Therefore I have cast you as profane  
From the mountain of God.*

*And I have destroyed you, O covering cherub,  
From the midst of the stones of fire.*

<sup>17</sup> “*Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty;  
You corrupted your wisdom by reason of your splendor.*

*I cast you to the ground;*

*I put you before kings,*

*That they may see you.*

<sup>18</sup> “*By the multitude of your iniquities,  
In the unrighteousness of your trade  
You profaned your sanctuaries.*

*Therefore I have brought fire from the midst of you;  
It has consumed you,*

*And I have turned you to ashes on the earth  
In the eyes of all who see you.*

<sup>19</sup> “*All who know you among the peoples  
Are appalled at you;*

*You have become terrified*

*And you will cease to be forever.””*

Satan's wisdom, and beauty led to pride and his subsequent downfall.

Isaiah 14:12-17

<sup>12</sup> “*How you have fallen from heaven,  
O star of the morning, son of the dawn!  
You have been cut down to the earth,  
You who have weakened the nations!*

<sup>13</sup> “*But you said in your heart,  
‘I will ascend to heaven;  
I will raise my throne above the stars of God,  
And I will sit on the mount of assembly  
In the recesses of the north.*

<sup>14</sup> *I will ascend above the heights of the clouds;  
I will make myself like the Most High.’*

<sup>15</sup> “*Nevertheless you will be thrust down to Sheol,  
To the recesses of the pit.*

<sup>16</sup> “Those who see you will gaze at you,  
They will ponder over you, saying,  
‘Is this the man who made the earth tremble,  
Who shook kingdoms,

<sup>17</sup> Who made the world like a wilderness  
And overthrew its cities,  
Who did not allow his prisoners to go home?’

Since Satan’s fall, he has become the archenemy of God and of His program to restore mankind to Himself. In the future, Satan will be cast into the lake of fire, where he will be tormented forever and ever.

- *Mathew 25:41 “Then He will also say to those on His left, ‘Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels;*
- *Revelation 20:10 And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.*

In Satan’s opposition to God, he sustains a definite relationship to the world of mankind.

- Through his temptation, Eve ate of his forbidden fruit in the Garden of Eden.
- Satan has been active in the world of human affairs ever since.

## The Lost Are Spiritual Children of Satan

How has man been affected by this sinful cherub?

Every sinner is actually a “spiritual” child of the devil. Mankind manifests this by not doing righteousness. Man continuously sins against God.

### Man’s Relationship to Satan

Spiritual Child of Satan

Subject to Kingdom of  
Satan

Under The Direct  
Control of Satan

Satan Blinds Minds &  
Spiritual Perception of  
the Lost

*1 John 3:10 By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious: anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who does not love his brother.*

*John 8:42-44 <sup>42</sup> Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and have come from God, for I have not even come on My own initiative, but He sent Me. <sup>43</sup> Why do you not understand what I am saying? It is because you cannot hear My word. <sup>44</sup> You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies.*

- Mankind does not love Christ because Satan, their father, does not love Christ.
- They do not respond to the divine Word of God.
- They hate, murder, lie, all because of their spiritual, satanic nature.
- Just as Satan stands condemned for his actions and character, so will Satan's children (followers)

Not only is Satan a father to sinners, but Paul calls him a ruler of this world with the lost as his subjects.

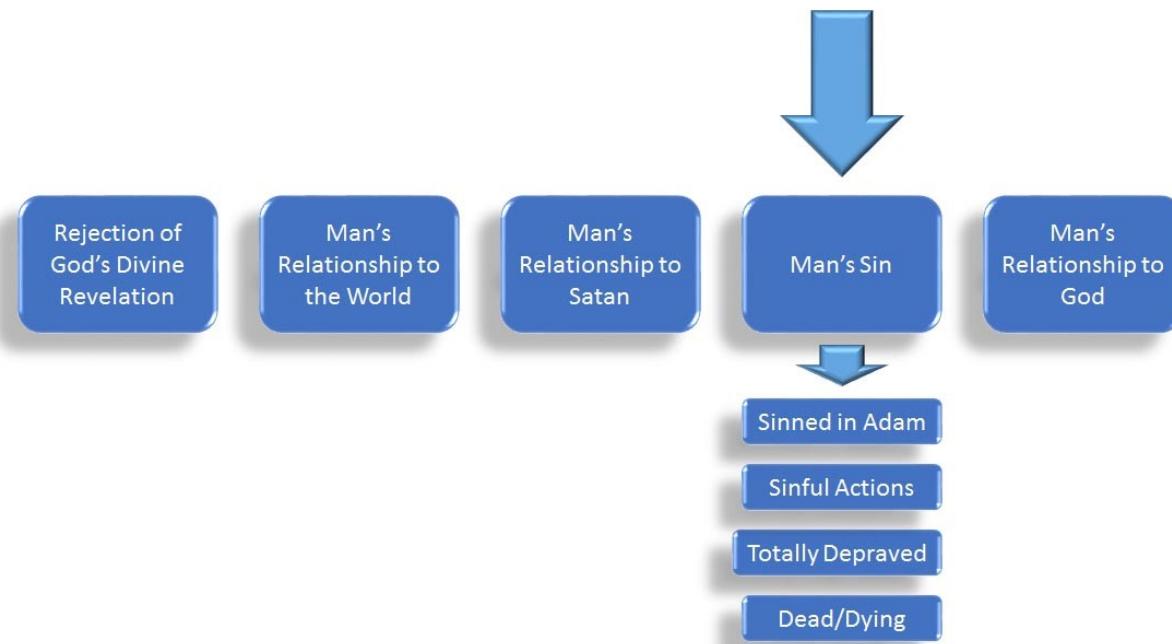
- *Colossians 1:13 For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son,*
- *John 12:31 Now judgment is upon this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out.*
- *Ephesians 2:2 in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.*
- *2 Corinthians 4:4 in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.*
- *Ephesians 6:12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.*
- *Matthew 4:8-9 Again, the devil took Him to a very high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory; <sup>9</sup> and he said to Him, "All these things I will give You, if You fall down and worship me."*

Satan is clearly the ruler over a world of fallen men and angels. And Jesus did not contest Satan's claim that he could give Jesus dominion over the nations of the world. Not only did Jesus reject Satan, but so must we.

The lost are also under the direct control of Satan

- *Ephesians 2:2 in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.*
  - Look again at Ephesians 2:2 just above. The lost walk according to satanic goals, likes and dislikes.
  - The devil is a 'spirit' that now works in the sons of disobedience. The Greek idea behind 'is now working' is energy. Satan energizes the lost. He works in and through them to accomplish his will. This means that no lost person has a totally free will. An anti-Christ, anti-God will is steering the life of the lost.
- Satan blinds the minds and spiritual perception of the lost. *2 Corinthians 4:4 in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.*
- When a man's natural eyes are blinded, he cannot see by the light of the sun. When a man's mind, or spiritual eyes are blinded he cannot see the spiritual light of the Son of God, Jesus Christ. Jesus is the light of men. He shines in the world of the blind lost. *John 1:4-5 (In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. <sup>5</sup> The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.)*
  - The lost believe they are enlightened, not blind. This is part of Satan's plan of deception. When men think that they can understand spiritual truth, but they really cannot, then Satan has succeeded in blinding them. When one admits their spiritual blindness, then they have taken the first step. *John 9:41 Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no sin; but since you say, 'We see,' your sin remains.*
  - Satan's goal is to keep sinners from the life God wants for them. *Ephesians 4:17-18 So this I say, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind, <sup>18</sup> being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart;*
  - Just as God created light to dispel the darkness. (*Genesis 1:3 Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light*), so God today must create spiritual light to dispel man's moral blindness (*2 Corinthians 4:6 For God, who said, "Light shall shine out of darkness," is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.*)

# FOURTH COUNT OF LOST: Man's Sins Condemns Him.



Man is condemned because of his relationship to sin. Sin is any lack of conformity to the character and will of God. In so many different ways, man has fallen short of God's holy standard and the law which He proclaimed in the first five books in the Old Testament.

Sin condemns man in four ways:

- Original Sin: Man sinned in Adam; inherited a sin nature
- Man's own sinful actions and attitudes
- Man is totally depraved, both morally and spiritually.
- Man is spiritually dead and physically dying.

## Original Sin

Original sin does not refer to the first sin but to the consequences of that first sin.

Original sin describes our fallen, sinful condition, out of which actual sins occur. Scripture does not tell us that we are sinners because we sin; rather, it affirms that we sin because we are sinners. We have a fallen, corrupt nature, out of which flow the actual sins we commit. Original sin, then, describes the fallen condition of the human race.

Scripture teaches us that original sin is itself a judgment of a righteous God upon creatures that He created to be good. As a penalty upon Adam and Eve for their sin, God gave them over, along with all their progeny, to their wicked inclinations.

Augustine, Bishop of Hippo around 500 AD and considered the father of the Roman Catholic Church doctrine, when analyzing the sinfulness of human beings commented that God made Adam and Eve both 'posse peccare' and 'posse non peccare'. This means they had the ability to sin and the ability not to sin. Augustine went on to state that Adam and Eve were not created as sinners, but they had the power to sin. God commanded them not to eat the fruit from the forbidden tree, and they had the moral ability to obey God. So they had both the ability to sin and the ability not to sin.

At the fall, according to Augustine, the human race lost posse non peccare, and in our current position we no longer have the ability not to sin. Dr. RC Sproul states “*the power of sin is so deeply rooted to the hearts and souls of mortal people that is impossible for us not to sin. We are so sinful by nature that we will never encounter someone who does not sin. The only person who ever accomplished a sinless life was Jesus Christ. Our inability not to sin is called the ‘moral inability of human beings.’*”

This also impacted man’s image of God in the narrow sense that which was instilled in man at creation. We lost the ability to be perfectly righteous. Yet we are still in the image of God in the wider sense. In other words, we’re still human. As corrupt as we may be, our humanity has not been erased by the fall.

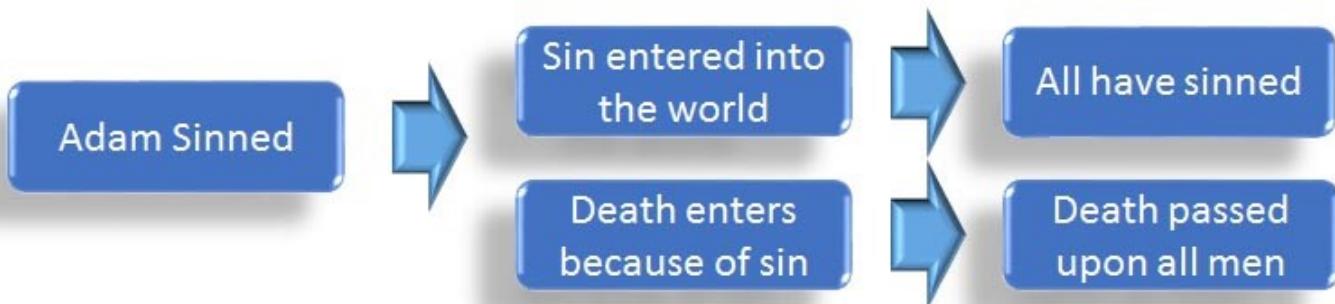
The Bible declares that man sinned in Adam. *Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned (Romans 5:12)*

We know that all men die physically, but when did all men sin? When did the infant who died sin?

When Adam sinned, every man (potentially present in the genetic makeup of Adam) sinned. When Adam sinned, you sinned in him. When Adam sinned, I sinned in him. God reckons Adam’s sin to be yours and my sin.

We participated personally, yet unconsciously, in Adam’s sin. If we had been in that garden instead of Adam, we would have done the very same thing that Adam and Eve did. We are just like Adam, bone of his bone and flesh of his flesh.

## By Adam All Have Sinned



The book of Hebrews argues that the priesthood of Melchizedek is greater than that of Levi.

- *Hebrews 7:1-3 For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, who met Abraham as he was returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him,<sup>2</sup> to whom also Abraham apportioned a tenth part of all the spoils, was first of all, by the translation of his name, king of righteousness, and then also king of Salem, which is king of peace.<sup>3</sup> Without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but made like the Son of God, he remains a priest perpetually.*

Abraham, the great-grandfather of Levi, paid tithes to *Melchizedek*. Therefore Levi paid tithes through Abraham. Even though Levi was not even born.

- *And, so to speak, through Abraham even Levi, who received tithes, paid tithes,<sup>10</sup> for he was still in the loins of his father when Melchizedek met him. Hebrews 7:9-10*
- So we, yet unborn, sinned in Adam.

God declared the penalty of sin even before Adam disobeyed the divine will of God (Preceptive).

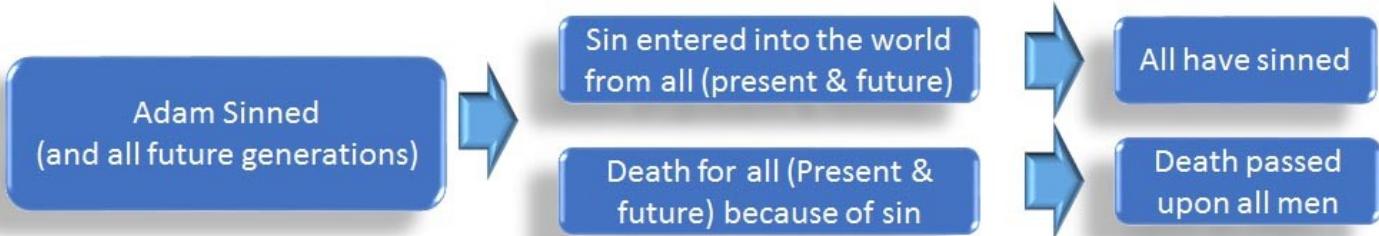
- *Genesis 2:17 but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die."*

When Adam sinned, he died spiritually and he began to die physically. The processes of corruption and mortality set into his body. His state of spiritual death became immediately evident by his shame for his nakedness, by his hiding from God, and by his excusing of his sin.

*Genesis 3:7-13 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings.<sup>8</sup> They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.<sup>9</sup> Then the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?"<sup>10</sup> He said, "I heard the sound of You in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid myself."<sup>11</sup> And He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?"<sup>12</sup> The man said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me from the tree, and I ate."<sup>13</sup> Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" And the woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."*

Every man born into the world not only participates in Adam's sin, but also in his punishment.

## By Adam All Have Sinned



When Adam sinned, we all sinned, we all received the same punishment. He died spiritually immediately and he began to die physically. We all are born spiritually dead and we spend our lifetime dying physically.

Our position before God at birth is this. Adam became guilty before God because of his sin of rebellion. We are guilty before God because we were in Adam. Whereas sin entered by one man, God has provided the gift of salvation to those who would accept through His one Son, Jesus Christ.

- *Romans 5:15-19 But the free gift is not like the transgression. For if by the transgression of the one the many died, much more did the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abound to the many.<sup>16</sup> The gift is not like that which came through the one who sinned; for on the one hand the judgment arose from one transgression resulting in condemnation, but on the other hand the free gift arose from many transgressions resulting in justification.<sup>17</sup> For if by the transgression of the one, death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.<sup>18</sup> So then as through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men, even so through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to all men.<sup>19</sup> For as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous.*

Part of man's position before God is that we are 'lost' because we have sinned in Adam.

## Man's Sinful Nature & Sinful Actions

Not only is man guilty by virtue of having sinned through Adam, but man has inherited a sin nature from Adam. Man also stands guilty and 'Lost' before God Almighty because of his own sinful acts and attitudes.

Man's sins and attitudes are the natural expression or fruit of the sin nature.

Let's look at an apple tree. An apple tree is an apple tree from the time its seed is planted. It is an apple tree while it grows up and long before it produces apples. It is the same with man.

He is a sinner in nature long before he puts forth the blooms of his sinful attitudes and the fruit of his sinful deeds. But just as the apple tree manifests its nature, so the sinner will manifest his. He does this in two ways: by his thoughts and emotions, and by his willful decisions.

Adam and Eve had no children prior to their fall from grace. Their first two children were Cain and Abel. They were born with a sin nature, or if you will, a propensity to sin and rebel against God. Cain was jealous and angry at Abel and eventually killed him.

Adam's sons were begotten in his likeness and image

- *Gen 4:1-2 Now the man had relations with his wife Eve, and she conceived and gave birth to Cain, and she said, "I have gotten a manchild with the help of the LORD." <sup>2</sup> Again, she gave birth to his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of flocks, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.*
- *Genesis 5:3 When Adam had lived one hundred and thirty years, he became the father of a son in his own likeness, according to his image, and named him Seth.*

Adam's sons were no different than was, no worse, no better, in their position before God. Adam sinned; so they sinned. Adam died, so they died.

The presence of the sin nature has completely corrupted man's total being. His ...

- Personality
- Intellect
- Emotions
- Will
- Understanding
- *Ephesians 4:18 being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart;*
- *Jeremiah 17:9 "The heart is more deceitful than all else And is desperately sick; Who can understand it?*
- *Romans 6:17-19 But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed, <sup>18</sup> and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness. <sup>19</sup> I am speaking in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness, resulting in further lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness, resulting in sanctification.*
- *Palm 51:5 Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me.*
- King David was aware of man's inherited sinfulness when he wrote the above. David traced his problem to his fetal state. He was born in sin. God gave this same evaluation of man after the flood as noted below.
- *Genesis 8:21 The LORD smelled the soothing aroma; and the LORD said to Himself, "I will never again curse the ground on account of man, for the intent of man's heart is evil from his youth; and I will never again destroy every living thing, as I have done.*

All men have broken the moral law of God. The sinful act is the manifestation of the sinful attitude. God holds man responsible for his thoughts and his actions.

- *Mark 7:20-23 And He was saying, “That which proceeds out of the man, that is what defiles the man. <sup>21</sup>For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed the evil thoughts, fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries, <sup>22</sup>deeds of coveting and wickedness, as well as deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride and foolishness. <sup>23</sup>All these evil things proceed from within and defile the man.”*
- *Matthew 12:34 You brood of vipers, how can you, being evil, speak what is good? For the mouth speaks out of that which fills the heart.*

The scribes and Pharisees refused to recognize these concepts. To them sin was in the act, not the thought. Jesus' Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7) corrects this thinking, but they wouldn't accept Jesus' teachings.

According to Jesus, sin went beyond the act to the attitude. Adultery could be committed in the mind as well as on the bed. Anger with malice broke the sixth commandment as much as plunging a knife into the heart of an enemy.

One sin involves the mind; the other sin involves both the mind and the body. But both acts are sin. The after-effects of the action may be greater than those of the intent, but they are both still sin.

Man is a sinner, both in his soul and in his body, and God holds him responsible for this. According to Paul, all unsaved men are under sin.

- *Romans 3:9 What then? Are we better than they? Not at all; for we have already charged that both Jews and Greeks are all under sin;*
- *Romans 7:14 For we know that the Law is spiritual, but I am of flesh, sold into bondage to sin.*
- *Galatians 3:22 But the Scripture has shut up everyone under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe*

All men before God and before men do have equality....

- They are equally under the penalty of sin
- They are equally under the power of sin
- They are equally under the presence of sin
- Sin dominates them completely, their past, present and future.
- They are equally lost

Unfortunately, man does not see himself in this desperate predicament. He believes that he can control the problems, the weaknesses, and the sins of himself and of society. He does not know that he is actually under the iron-first rule of sin.

When man does see himself as being under sin, he is then a candidate for salvation.

This is a critical concept for those who witness (which should be all Christians). We must plow the field that our candidates see themselves as being under sin. Only then can the seed of the Gospel be planted.

## **Totally Depraved**

Scripture depicts man as being morally and spiritually depraved.

The sense of depravity is hard to communicate. Whenever men hear the word depraved, they immediately think of a corrupt pervert or a sin-cursed soul.

However, depravity refers to man's position before God, not his practices.

Let's restate this. Totally depraved means ones position is as bad off as it can ever be before God. It does not mean that man is as bad as he could be. Depravity does not mean that a man does not have any knowledge of God. It does not mean that man does not appreciate the quality of goodness or that he does not do good. Depravity means that ....

- there is nothing in man that will merit God's approval.
- There is nothing that man can do to gain acceptance before God
- There is a total absence of holiness
- This is God's estimation of man, it is not man's evaluation of himself.
- It does not mean that man has achieved the highest intensity of sin in his personal experience.

There are sinners who have sinned more and others who have sinned less. There are moral sinners and there are immoral sinners, but they are both equal sinners before God. No man has ever put into practice the full potential of his sin nature, although we may seem to think a few have ardently tried.

The restraint of the Holy Spirit, the influence of Christians in the world as salt and light and the purposes of God have prevented man from doing so.

In summary,

- Depravity refers to man's position before God, not his practice.
- Man is as bad off as he can be, but he is not necessarily as bad as he can be
- Depravity is true of man's total being, his intellect, his emotion, and his will
- There is nothing that man can think, feel, or do, that will produce God's type of righteousness within his life.
- This is true of every man who has ever lived.

## **Man is Spiritually Dead & Physically Dying**

Man is on death row.

We are waiting for our execution to the wrath of God. *He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.*" John 3:36

That's really how bad our position is before God Almighty.

At birth, each of us is placed on death row and we are hopeless in that there is nothing we can do, plead, persuade, buy, bribe or earn that will get us off of death row. Each person on death row is a condemned man and there's nothing we can do to escape the coming wrath of God.

The best thing you can do is visualize the electric chair waiting for you just one hundred steps from your front door.

We are spiritually dead, our future in hell awaits us, the only thing remaining is for our puny bodies to die.

To reverse the sentence upon us there are two remedies we need.

1. Deliverance from the guilt of sin
2. Deliverance from the corruption of sin's effects upon the body.

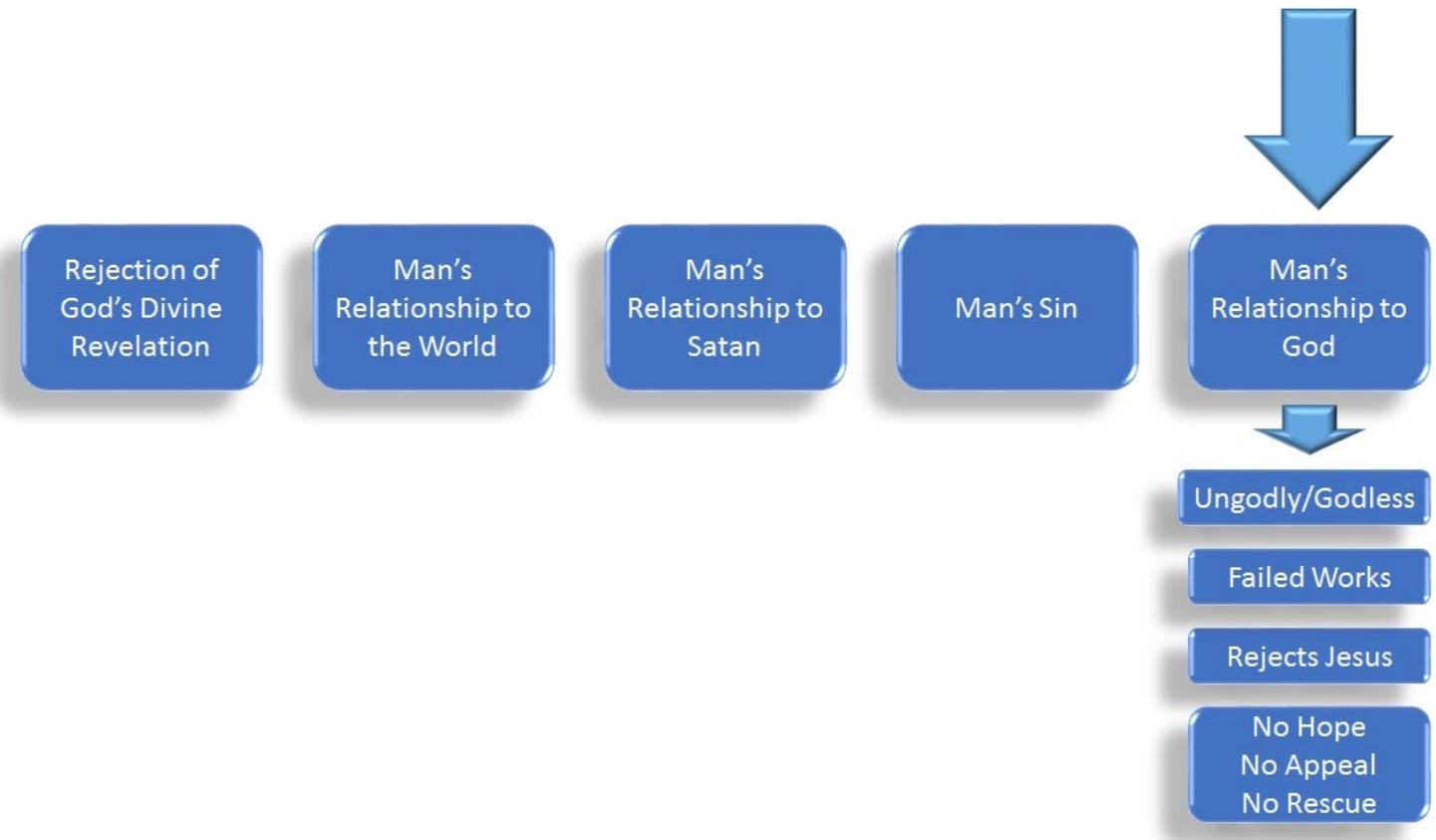
This can only happen by the grace of God. *But what does it say? "THE WORD IS NEAR YOU, IN YOUR MOUTH AND IN YOUR HEART"—that is, the word of faith which we are preaching,<sup>9</sup> that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved;<sup>10</sup> for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.*  
*Romans 10:8-10*

Man cannot do anything to remedy his situation. Only God can provide the type of redemption that man needs.

To summarize ... man stands 'lost' before God Almighty because ...

- Man originally sinned in Adam (We would have done the same thing were we in his place.)
  - Man has a sinful nature that is an enemy to God.
  - Man commits sinful actions, sinful thoughts and carries a sinful attitude from a sin-infested heart.
  - Man is Totally Depraved
  - Man is on death row, spiritually dead and awaiting final physical death
- 
- *Romans 10:8-10 that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; <sup>10</sup>for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.*
  - *Ephesians 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God;*

# FIFTH COUNT OF LOST: Man's Relationship To God Condemns Him.



## Man Is Without God & Practices Ungodliness

Most men profess to believe in some kind of a god, but it is a god of their own making, or one that has been passed down to them through tradition.

In spite of whatever man holds to be their god, as far as God is concerned He describes the unsaved man as one who is ‘without God in the world.’

- *Ephesians 2:12 remember that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.*

It does not matter how good you were in life. It does not matter how sincere you were in your beliefs or how much better the world was because of your life..... If you are ‘without God’ you are unsaved. You will share the same fate as all other non-saved people.

This person is without God in the fullest sense of the term God.

- They have no claim on God
- There is not a single bit of the presence of the genuine living God in their life.
- They are truly ungodly or godless, in that there is no vital relationship between that person and God.

- Redemption is only provided through Jesus Christ.
  - *Romans 8:9 However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.*
  - *Jude 19 These are the ones who cause divisions, worldly-minded, devoid of the Spirit*

There are only two types of people in the world.

- Saved
- Unsaved.

### **Man's Rejection of Jesus Christ**

Both Paul and Jude above says the saved have the Spirit of God dwelling within them and the unsaved do not have the Spirit of God dwelling within them. Therefore (and this is critical) You cannot have a saved man without the Spirit and you can not have unsaved man with the Spirit. It is just impossible.

- *1 John 5:12 He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.*
- *John 1:4 In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men.*
- *John 14:6 Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.*
- *Romans 3:20 because by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight; for through the Law comes the knowledge of sin.*

The Scriptures make it clear that if a man does not have Jesus Christ dwelling within his life, he is an unsaved person. This means that the atheist, the agnostic, the animist, the Muslim, the Buddhist, and the Christian religionist cannot have access to God. Everyone must come to God only through Jesus Christ.

Man is simply guilty before God. He has broken the moral law of God, he knows it, and he is liable. Man has no basis of appeal before God. He cannot blame his situation on heredity or environment. He must blame himself.

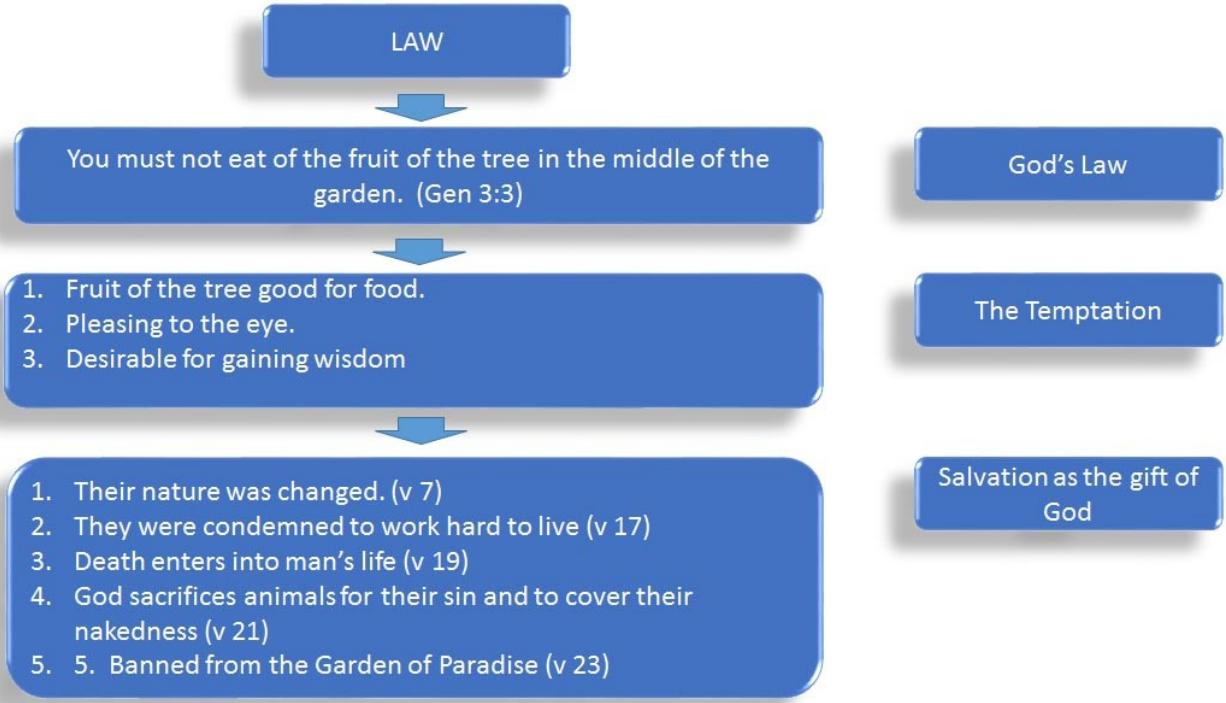
This is Paul's description of the guilty man.

*as it is written,*  
*“THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE;*  
<sup>11</sup> *THERE IS NONE WHO UNDERSTANDS,*  
*THERE IS NONE WHO SEEKS FOR GOD;*  
<sup>12</sup> *ALL HAVE TURNED ASIDE, TOGETHER THEY HAVE BECOME USELESS;*  
*THERE IS NONE WHO DOES GOOD,*  
*THERE IS NOT EVEN ONE.”*  
<sup>13</sup> *“THEIR THROAT IS AN OPEN GRAVE,*  
*WITH THEIR TONGUES THEY KEEP DECEIVING,”*  
*“THE POISON OF ASPS IS UNDER THEIR LIPS”;*  
<sup>14</sup> *“WHOSE MOUTH IS FULL OF CURSING AND BITTERNESS”;*  
<sup>15</sup> *“THEIR FEET ARE SWIFT TO SHED BLOOD,*  
<sup>16</sup> *DESTRUCTION AND MISERY ARE IN THEIR PATHS,*  
<sup>17</sup> *AND THE PATH OF PEACE THEY HAVE NOT KNOWN.”*  
<sup>18</sup> *“THERE IS NO FEAR OF GOD BEFORE THEIR EYES.”*  
*Romans 3:10-18*

## Man Has Failed To Follow God's Laws

God did not give us ‘the law’ so that man could keep it and thereby gain eternal life. In fact God says that if there was any law that could impart life, He would have based salvation on this law(s) and not have sacrificed His Son. The law was, instead, given so that man could understand God’s holy character, recognize his own sinful being, and place his faith in God’s provision for his salvation. The law was a mirror so that man could see his moral despair and call upon God for his cleansing.

## Sin & Judgment Enter Mankind Through The Preceptive Will Of God



- *Galatians 3:21 Is the Law then contrary to the promises of God? May it never be! For if a law had been given which was able to impart life, then righteousness would indeed have been based on law.*
- *Romans 7:12 So then, the Law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good.*
- *Romans 8:3 For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh,*
- *John 3:36 He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”*

As stated previously, man is on death row awaiting the wrath of God.

The unregenerate man’s position is the inevitable of coming under God’s wrath. However man will not experience God’s wrath until after death when he is sentenced in hades or hell and later into the lake of fire. Until then, the wrath of God hangs over him as though he’d been already buckled into the electric chair.

Deliverance through the Lord Jesus Christ is possible, but it must come before physical death. After death, it is too late. Deliverance comes through believing in Christ. One either has everlasting life within them or the wrath of God upon them.

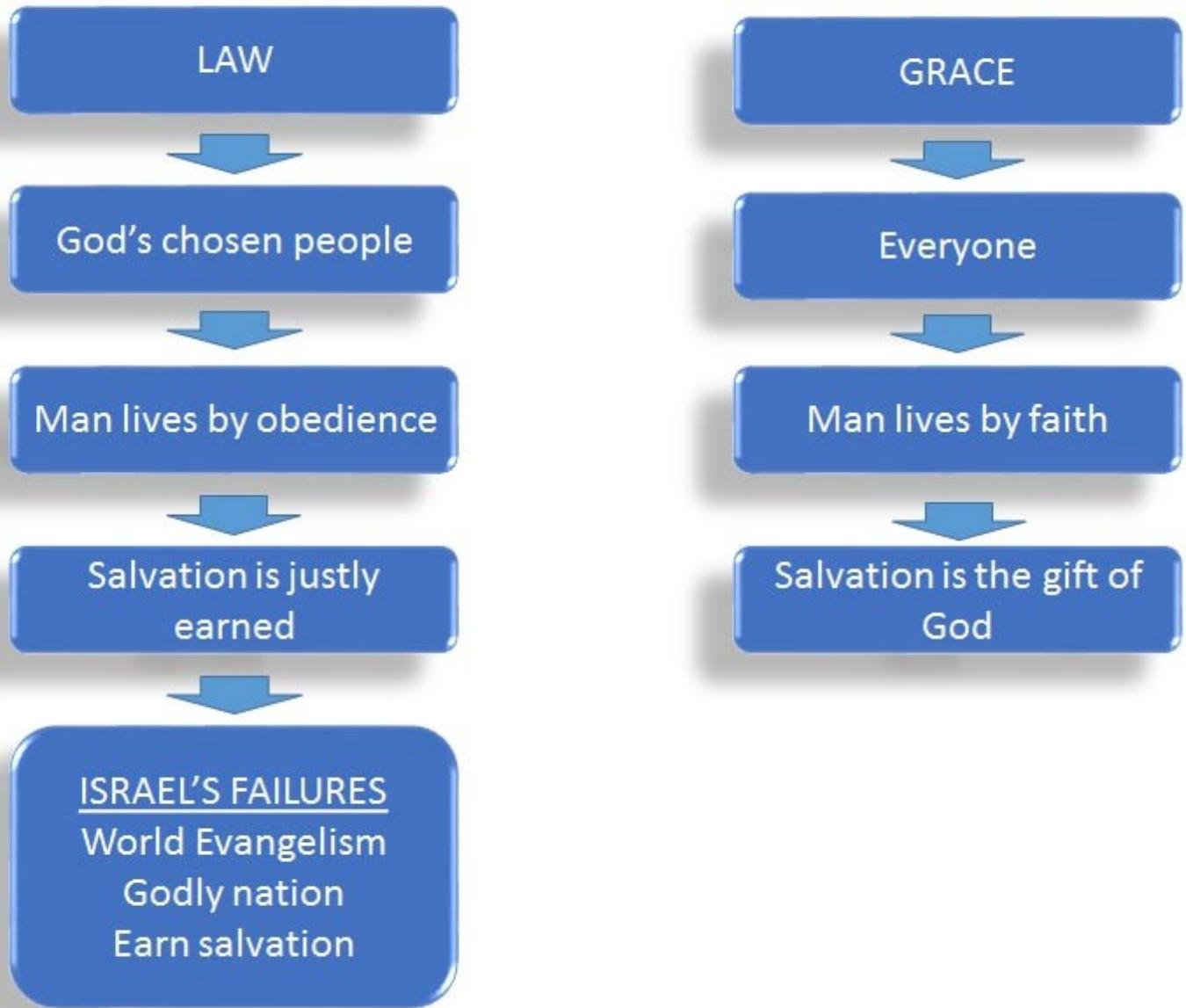
## Man is without Hope

My wife works at a long term care hospital. Many patients are able to return to a normal life, but some will never leave the hospital alive. When a doctor takes them aside and lets them know its time for them to get their affairs in order, that there is no hope for recovery, pain and remorse sets in. It's heart rendering for her to observe.

We live on hope. It's amazing how men have survived the worst of times, the worst of conditions, the ugliest circumstances because they hoped in a rescue or release., But when hope dies or is absent man can sink to new lows of mental, emotional, and spiritual depression.

A man without God is also without hope, both in this life and after death. Hope is part of faith. *For in hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope; for who hopes for what he already sees? 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we wait eagerly for it. Romans 8:24-25*

## Law & Grace Under Preceptive Will Of God



They had put their faith in Jesus Christ, the one who was crucified, buried, raised from the dead, ascended into God's presence, and who could come at any moment to take them likewise into God's heaven.

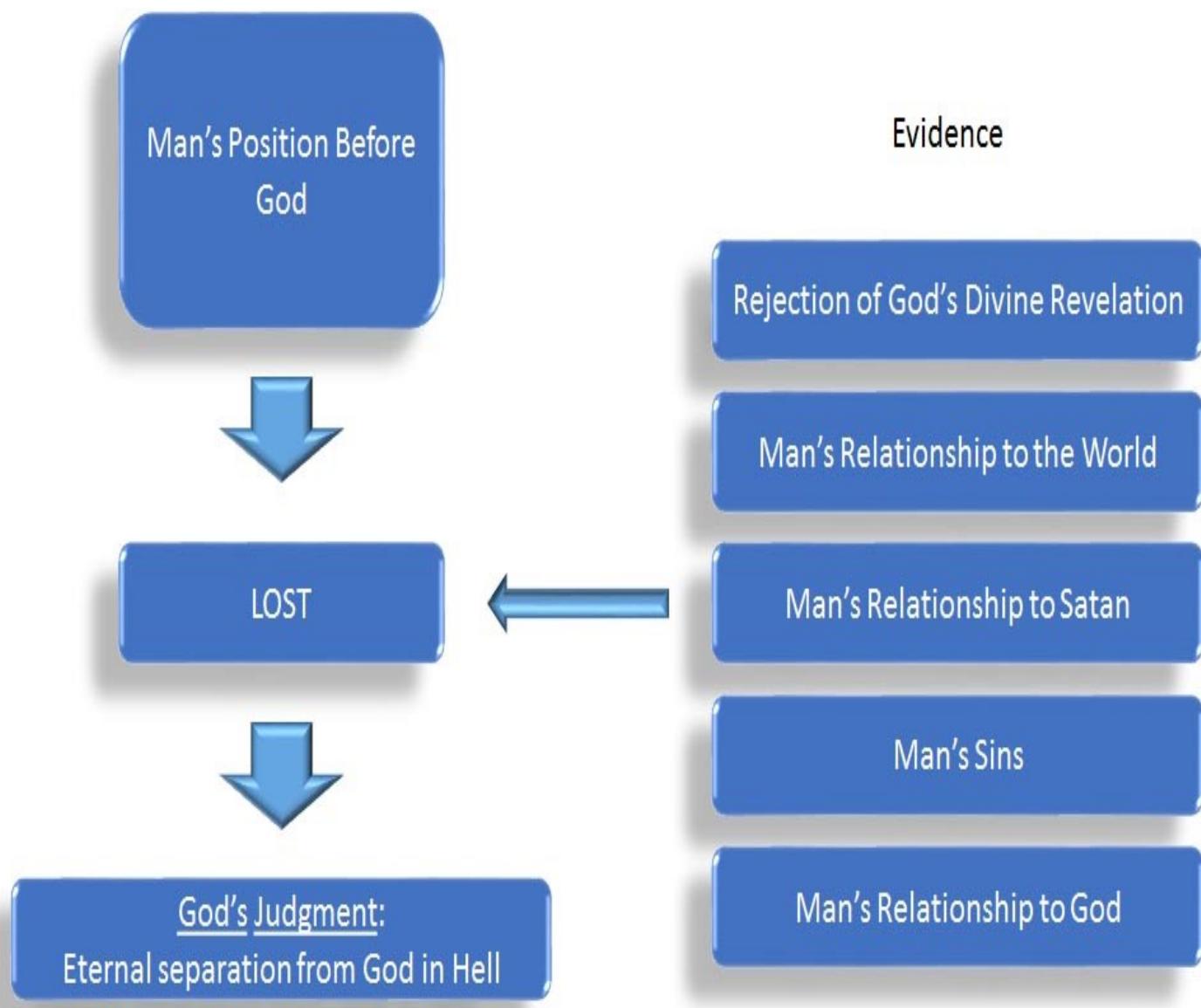
The unsaved do not have this hope.

God sees the unsaved in total despair.

God sees man as totally lost. Man is morally lost in an infinite forest with no spiritual compass.  
Man cannot rescue himself.

<sup>10</sup> *For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.” Luke 19:10.* Man is lost and only God through Christ can find him.

## SUMMARY



Man is condemned because he has rejected Divine Revelation. The relationships that man sustain to the world to Satan, to Sin and to God also makes them guilty ("Lost") before God.

Every unsaved man is marked by the biblical characteristics set forth in this discussion, whether he is or is not aware of them. Whether or not man acknowledges this position or not, is irrelevant before God. At the judgment seat, there is only one question that will be answered. Did you accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior?

As a side note (which will be covered in a later discussion) if a man could lose his spiritual deliverance through Christ, he would have to return fully to his former 'lost' position and practice. In order to be guilty before God once more, he would have to return to the complete state of the lost man who has never been saved.

