

People Need The Lord

WHY DO PEOPLE NEED THE LORD? The most common understanding is “to go to heaven when this life is over.” Nobody wants to go to that ‘other place’ - that is, if they really think about it. But then, nobody is really thinking about it, are they? At least not right now when there are so many other more ‘important things’ to worry about! But that’s the point: those ‘things’ are also reasons why people need the Lord right now! There is too much to face alone—we all need God’s help...today!



MAN IS IN ALL KINDS OF TROUBLE!! He must be if the Son of God Himself had to leave heaven to come to his rescue. When Jesus announced the beginning of his ministry to his “home church” (see Lk 4:16-21) he read from **Isaiah 61:1-3** which tells us that, to ‘save us’, Jesus would not only proclaim “*the acceptable year of the Lord*” [that salvation has come] and “*the day of vengeance of our God*” [so will punishment to those who refuse to repent] but that he also came to:

Preach good tidings *Open prisons of the bound*
Proclaim liberty to captives *Give beauty for ashes* *Joy for mourning*
Praise for the spirit of heaviness

Now that is meeting a lot of needs! And all this so that we “...*might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that He might be glorified.*” What God wants for us is best for us - but most people don’t even know it. Why? Well, consider the following:

“THREE STRIKES AND YOU’RE OUT!!” Three reasons why people usually don’t see things God’s way:

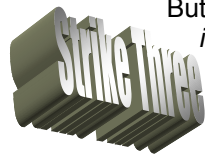


First and foremost is that sin separates us from God, like a partition or wall. Put a high enough fence between you and your neighbor and you can eventually ‘forget’ they are there! But what about the time when you need your neighbor’s help? God tells us in Isaiah 59:1,2 that He can ‘hear’ us and ‘help’ us but that He must ‘hide’ His face from us because of our sins. God hates sin (though He still loves sinners) and that’s why He won’t look upon us while we are covered in that awful stuff. We need to turn to him - we need the wall torn down - so we can find “*help in time of need.*” (Heb 4:16)

Did you know: Some people are angry with God because He didn’t answer some prayer of theirs, even though they will admit their life is not ‘right’ with Him. This scripture in Isaiah explains why God has to ‘chase’ not to answer. However, sometimes God will answer a prayer from someone who would otherwise not ‘deserve’ it just so that, by showing His goodness, He may lead them to repentance (Rom 2:4)



What makes matters worse - sin blinds sinners! (2Cor 4:3,4) They can’t see the wall that separates them or any of the other problems caused by the accumulation of evil through the passing of years. A ‘captive’ to sin can’t even change if they wanted to because of their continual war with their own flesh’ (see Rom 7:18-25) Without the Lord, people are in darkness, in prison, and fighting a war with themselves!!



But worst of all: a person in sin is at war with God!! (*and God is someone you really don’t want to pick a fight with!*) Check out these scriptures:

James 4:4 “...*a friend of the world is an enemy of God*”

Phil 3:18,19 “...*some are enemies of the cross cause their belly is their god*”

Col 1:21 “...*you were enemies - but now He hath reconciled you...*”

And just how did Jesus do that? He did it “...*through the blood of his cross*” (v.20) with “*his flesh through death*” (v. 22) But don’t forget - it only works if we “...continue in the faith...” (v.23)

COULD IT GET ANY WORSE THAT THIS? Yes, it can!! The Bible says that everybody who sins ‘sells’ themselves into ‘slavery’, that they become the ‘prisoners’ of Satan, bound to serve him (whether they know it or not - whether they want to or not.) Jesus said, “*Whosoever commits sin is the servant of sin*” (**John 8:34**) but he also promised that “*If the Son shall make you free you shall be free indeed!*” (**v.36**) People today deny that they are in bondage just like the religious leaders Jesus was speaking to did back then (v.33) The fact is, we all serve either one kingdom or the other [study Rom 6:16-18] You are either on God’s side or the side that is against Him - there is no middle ground! [read Mat 12:30 & Luke 16:13] But what about those who are just trying to ‘straddle the fence’? Well, **Revelations 3:15,16** says that God is going to ‘spit out’ all who are ‘lukewarm’!

