LOSING THE SAVED
by Donald Townsley

INTRODUCTION
1. The Lord has taught us to SAVE THE LOST -- Mark 16: 15 - 16
2. The Lord has also warned us about LOSING THE SAVED -- Matt. 13: 20 - 22
3. I think it is self-evident that while we are saving the LOST, we are LOSING THE SAVED.
4. We need to GIVE MORE ATTENTION to the CAUSES OF LOSING THE SAVED.
5. We need to look at what we can do to prevent losing so many people back to the world.

I. SOME OF THE WAYS THE SAVED ARE LOST:
1. By making SHIPWRECK OF THEIR FAITH -- I Tim. 1:19
   (1) This shipwreck of faith comes because they LOVE SIN and give in to their LUST -- James 1: 14 - 15
   (2) They violate their conscience by the practice of their sins; they willfully resist what they know to be right and "sear" their "conscience" -- I Tim. 4:2.
   (3) In time, their UNFAITHFULNESS to God destroys their faith -- Heb. 3: 12 - 13.
2. Some are lost by having this faith overthrown by ERROR -- II Tim. 2:18
   (1) By following false teacher -- I John 4:1
3. By their LOVE GROWING COLD-- Matt. 24:12
   (1) The reason: "because iniquity shall abound"
   (2) Iniquity means--the violation of law; lawlessness.
   (3) Some leave their first love -- Rev. 2:4
4. Some are lost because of their LOVE FOR THE WORLD.
   (1) I John 2: 15 - 17
   (2) Demas loved the world -- II Tim. 4:10
   (3) James warns -- James 4:4
5. Many are lost because of the LOVE OF MONEY
   (1) I Tim. 6: 9 - 10
   (2) Matt. 13:22
6. By the LOVE OF PLEASURE
   (1) II Tim. 3:4
   (2) Pleasures of this life -- Luke 8:14
7. By the CARES OF THIS LIFE.
   (1) Luke 8:14
8. By EVIL COMPANIONSHIPS
   (1) I Cor. 15:33

9. By being UNEQUALLY YOKED WITH UNBELIEVERS -- II Cor. 6:14

10. By MARRIAGE TO UNBELIEVERS.

II. WHY ARE THE SAVED LOST?

1. Sometimes the older members SAY and DO things that CAUSE THE WEAK TO STUMBLE.
   (1) I Cor. 8: 12 - 13
   (2) Rom. 14:13

2. Because of the LACK OF EXERCISE:
   (1) One not only needs food to grow, he needs exercise -- Heb. 5:14
   (2) The church is a training school -- Eph. 4: 11 - 12, 16; Luke 11:1

3. New members must be made to feel they are A PART OF THE CONGREGATION.
   (1) The church is God's heritage -- I Pet. 5:3
   (2) We are members "one of another" -- Rom. 12:5
   (3) Sometimes, certain groups associate together in a tight circle, and they never take others into their warm friendship.
   (4) New members are ignored and shunned.

4. Sometimes young Christians are not properly fed the "sincere milk of the word":
   (1) Young Christians cannot live and grow without proper feeding -- I Pet. 2:2; Heb. 5: 12 - 14
   (2) We must assist young Christians in Bible study -- II Tim. 2:2
   (3) They must study to "show themselves approved" -- II Tim. 2:15

5. Many times, we fail to give commendation or encouragement to the young Christian.
   (1) "Encourage the fainthearted, support the weak" --I Thess. 5:14
   (2) Criticism is all that some young Christians ever hear.
   (3) They become "weary in well-doing"-- Gal. 6:9

6. Some of the saved are lost because of SELF-INTEREST.
   (1) They live by the pagan rule of life: "LOOK OUT FOR NUMBER ONE"
   (2) The Christian's RULE:
       1. Mark 10: 44 - 45
       2. Acts 20:35
   (3) These self-interested Christians:
       1. Have no time to teach others
       2. No time to help others
       3. No time to be with others
       4. No time to visit the sick
5. No time for the work of the church.

7. Some of the saved are lost because they do not want to be restrained by the authority of Christ.
   (1) They want to do what everybody else is doing.
   (2) They will not deny themselves -- Luke 9:23; Tit. 2: 11 - 12

CONCLUSION

1. Let us realize that the church has an obligation to keep the saved from being lost -- Gal. 6:1; James 5: 19 - 20; I Thess. 5:14; II Tim. 2: 24 - 26

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