

LOST BELIEVERS

Jno.12:42,43

Ed Dye

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Some people think anyone who believes Jesus of Nazareth is the Christ, the Son of God, and professes that faith, is a **SAVED BELIEVER**.
2. It's true that the Bible teaches believing that Jesus of Nazareth is the Christ, the Son of God, is absolutely necessary in order to be saved, Jno.8:21,24; 3:14-18,36; 20:30,31; Ac.16:25-31.
3. However, the N.T. plainly, emphatically teaches there are some believers who are not and will not be saved; that there are **LOST BELIEVERS**.
4. The burden of this lesson is to identify some **LOST BELIEVERS**; that is, some who profess to be believers yet are lost.

II. DISCUSSION

A. THE HOLY SPIRIT IDENTIFIED LOST BELIEVERS OF JNO.12:42,43.

1. Who were they?
 - a. Jewish believers among the chief rulers. We know they believed Jesus of Nazareth was the Christ, the Son of God, because John, the Holy Spirit inspired writer, says they did.
 - b. Though they believed on Jesus, they would not confess their faith in him.
2. Why would they not confess him though they believe on him? Two reasons:
 - a. "Lest they be put out of the synagogue." Cf. Jno.9:22.
 - b. "For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God." Cf. Mt.10:37; Lk.14:26; Mt.16:24,25.
3. Mt.10:32,33 – "confess me before men" Cf. Mk.8:38:"whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words..." See Rom.9:33; 1:15,16; 2Tim.1:8.

B. THE BELIEVER WHO HAS FAITH WITHOUT WORKS IS A LOST BELIEVER, Jas.2:14-26.

1. Note the textual argument proving that the believer who hath faith without works is a **LOST BELIEVER**.
2. Note how the “faith only” advocates pervert this text in an effort to uphold their false doctrine.
3. Take note that even “the devils” or “the demons”, or “the evil spirits”, are said to have had faith that Jesus of Nazareth is the Christ, the Son of God, Vv.19,20.
 - a. See Mt.8:28,29; Mk.1:23,24; Lk.4:33,34; Ac.16:16-18.
 - b. Yet not one would be willing to say the demons, who were believers, and even confessed their faith in Jesus, were saved!
4. The argument of James in this text is that those believers who had faith without works, or the obedience of faith, were in the same spiritual condition as the demons who believed – they were **LOST BELIEVERS**.

C. EVEN SOME PRAYING BELIEVERS ARE LOST BELIEVERS, Prov.28:9; 15:8. Cf. Isa.1:15,16; 2Chr.7:14; Psa.18:41; 66:18; Prov.1:28; Jer.11:11; Ezek.8:18; Mic.3:4; Jno.9:31; Lk.13:24-27.

D. DISOBEDIENT BELIEVERS ARE LOST BELIEVERS, Mt.7:21-27; Lk.6:46; Ac.8:18-24; Heb.2:1-3; 12:14,15,25; 1Pet.3:12; 1Jno.1:6; 2Jno.9; 3Jno.9,10.

1. Cf. Mk.16:15,16 – “I believe you Lord, but I do not believe one must be baptized in water in your name in order to be saved.” Cf. Ac.2:38; 1Pet.3:21; Ac.22:16.
2. “I believe you Lord, but I don’t believe what you have said!” **LOST BELIEVER!**

III. CONCLUSION

1. Therefore, not only outright, total apostates, those who once believed and obeyed the gospel but completely turn away from it, completely rejected it, as those of Heb.10:29, are lost and will be lost eternally;
2. But even those who may be classified in the category of believers we have described in this lesson are presently lost and will be eternally lost unless they repent and turn to the Lord!
3. Think of Psa.119:9-11; Heb.2:1-3; 12:25.