
LOST in CHURCH!

Adapted from:

www.baptiststart.com/sermons_ppt.html

For more downloadable teachings see:

www.altogetherlovely.org (FREE TEACHINGS)

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- **How Does it Happen...
....that many who come
to church for years
aren't saved?**
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How does it happen?

- **Are you “lost” or “saved”?**
 - **Is the person beside you “lost” or “saved”?**
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- **"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!' (Matthew 7:21-23)**
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- **The most important question a “church-goer” can ask themselves:**

Am I Saved?

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➤ Are you “offended”
or do you really want to know?

Am I Saved?

Am I An Unsaved

“Church-Goer”?

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**There was an elderly lady
who had been in church all her life.
She went to a counselor friend of mine.**

- My friend was confused as what to do with her as she had a lot of turmoil in her life.
 - The Holy Spirit told him to ask her questions about whether or not she was saved.
 - He was embarrassed, but he gently began to ask her about her salvation even after her many years in church.....
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- She explained, “No, I’ m not sure if I’ m saved.”
 - He then gently and sincerely, led her to faith in Christ.
 - And she was a changed person.....
- she was calmer, more assured, and at peace with her life and with her eternal destiny!!

ALL HER LIFE IN THE CHURCH
AND SHE DIDN’ T KNOW
IF SHE WAS SAVED!!!

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It has been rightly said:

- **You lead a non-believer to Christ!!**

For in Christ is
forgiveness, peace, joy, life, salvation!

- **You lead a believer to the Cross!!**

For the Cross shows us the death
of the “old man” in the flesh.
Then we can learn how to walk
in our “new man” in Christ!

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➤**BUT YOU ALWAYS,**
make sure they are saved!!

➤ **What good is it**
to help a person with their problems
and they end up
going to hell for eternity?

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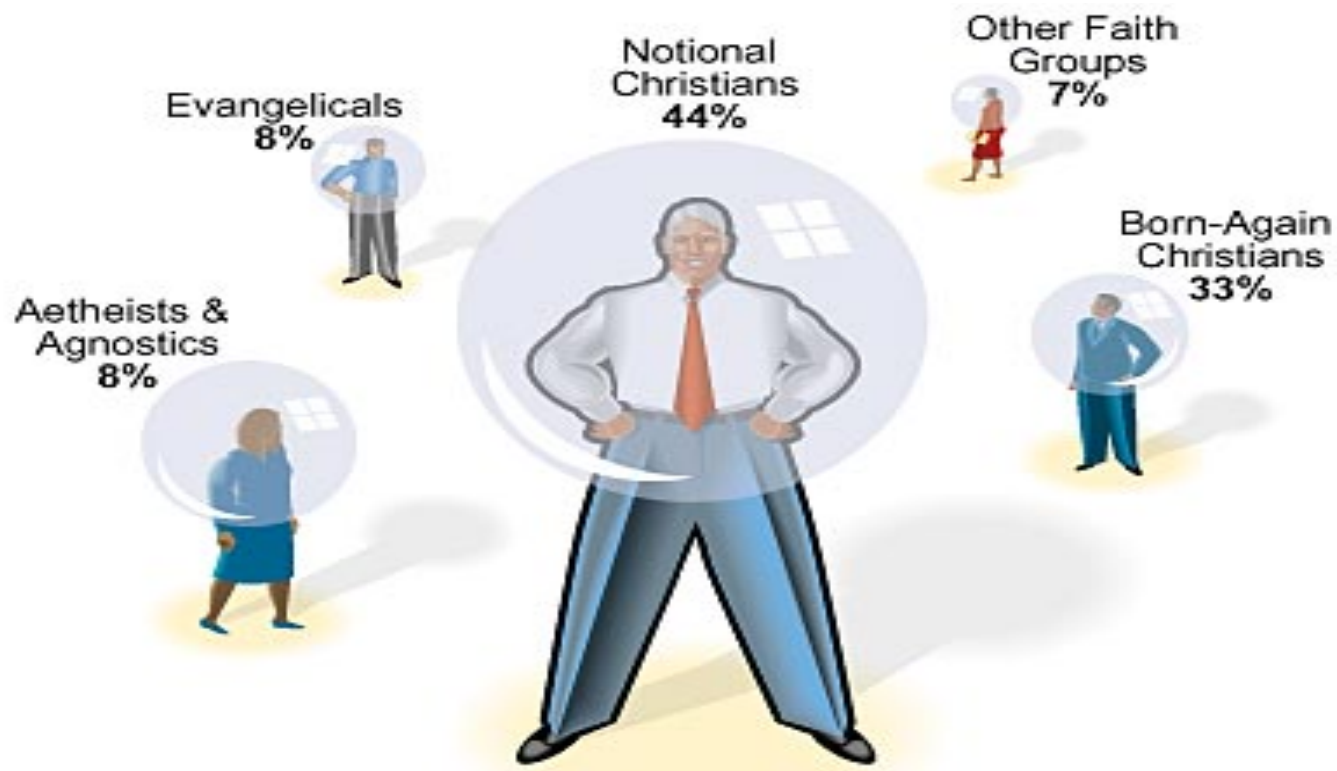
Are Lost Church Members Rare?

➤ **"Many will say to Me
on that day..." v.22**

➤ **"Half of all adults**

**who attend Protestant churches
on a typical Sunday morning
are not Christian."**

- Pollster George Barna



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Largest Group are Notional “Christians”

- **Consider themselves to be Christian.**
 - **Believe they will have eternal life, but not because of a grace-based relationship with Jesus Christ.**
 - **Don't claim to know their eternal destiny with any certainty.**
 - **Are less likely than others to embrace core Bible doctrines.**
 - **They know the “lingo” and hold down key positions in churches across the nation.**
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How Can It Happen?

- Lack of Information: don't hear the Gospel
 - Lack of Understanding: don't understand
 - Lack of Willingness: don't want it
 - Lack of Humility: can't admit it
 - Lack of Understanding: hearts closed
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We don't get it

- **55% of “born-again Christians” rejected the existence of the Holy Spirit.**
 - **52% denied the existence of Satan**
 - **35% denied the physical resurrection of Christ.**
 - **33% agreed that a person could earn his or her own salvation through good works – denying salvation by grace through faith in Christ alone.**
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It's Not What You *Say* About the Lord

- “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven” verse 21
 - “Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name...?” verse 22
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It's Not What You Do For the Lord

- 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' v.22
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Trying to come to Christ on our own terms

- Praying the Prayer
- Raising your hand
- Filling out a card
- Being Baptized
- Joining the church

**Untouched by Transforming Grace
...the Life of Jesus!!**

- “Away from Me, you evil doers!” v. 23
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- **A life untouched by repentance**
 - **Lifestyle as an expression of “what & who” we are**

 - **Matthew 7:17-20 “Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit... Therefore by their fruits you will know them.”**
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It *is* about

a Relationship with Jesus

- **“Then I will tell them plainly,
‘I never knew you...’ ” v.23**
 - **It is all about a relationship.....
KNOWING JESUS INTIMATELY**
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Experience the Grace

- **“Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.” (Matthew 7:13-14)**
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➤ Enter by Faith

- Then they asked him, ‘What must we do to do the works God requires?’ Jesus answered, ‘The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent.’

(John 6:28-29)

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Enter by Faith : Faith in Christ

- ***Not Faith in Faith.....***
 - ***Not Faith in Christ Plus....***
 - ***Not Faith in Christ But.....***
 - ***Not Faith in Christ And.....***
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- Anything outside of Faith is “SIN”.
 - **It is faith in Christ and in Christ ONLY!!!**
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This call to salvation begins with God. He initiates it by wooing or drawing us to come to Him.

- **John 6:44 "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him ..."**
 - **Revelation 3:20 "Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in..."**
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Human Efforts are Futile:

- **God desires an intimate relationship**

with us, but we cannot obtain it through our own efforts.

- **Isaiah 64:6 "All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags..."**
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Human Efforts are Futile:

- **God desires an intimate relationship with us, but we cannot obtain it through our own efforts.**
 - **Romans 3:10-12 "...There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one."**
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Separated by Sin:

- We have a problem. Our sin separates us from God, leaving us spiritually empty.
 - Romans 3:23 "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."
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- **It is impossible for us to find peace with God through our own efforts. Anything we try to do to obtain God's favor or gain salvation is worthless and futile.**
 - **Romans 10:9-10: "If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved."**
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This call to A Gift from God:

- **Salvation then, is a gift from God. He offers the gift through Jesus, his Son. By laying down his life on the cross, Christ took our place and paid the ultimate price, the penalty for our sin -- death.**
 - **John 14:6 "Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me."**
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This call to A Gift from God:

- **Jesus said, "It is finished." We trust in the "finished work" of Christ on the cross and we trust in His Resurrection. Jesus is our only way to God.**
 - **Romans 5:8: "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."**
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Responding to God's Call:

- The only thing we must do is respond to God's call.
 - But how?
 - How do I become a Christian?
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**Receiving God's gift of salvation
is not complicated.**

**The response to God's call is explained
in these simple steps from God's Love
Letter – The Bible:**

➤ **1) Admit you are a sinner
and turn away from your sin.**

➤ **Acts 3:19 says:**

**"Repent, then, and turn to God,
so that your sins may be wiped out,
that times of refreshing
may come from the Lord."**

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- **2) Believe Jesus Christ died on the cross to save you from your sins and give you eternal life:**
 - **John 3:16 says: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life."**
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➤ **3. Come to Him by faith!**

➤ **In John 14:6 Jesus said:**

**"I am the way, the truth,
and the life.**

**No one can come
to the Father
except through me."**

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- **4) You may pray a simple prayer to God.**
 - **Prayer is simply communicating with God.**
 - **Pray using your own words.**
 - **There is no special formula.**
 - **Just pray from your heart to God.**
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Here's an example (you can repeat now):

- *Heavenly Father, I know that I'm a sinner and need a Savior. I'm coming to you in the name of Jesus Christ, your precious Son, to forgive my sins.
I ask you Jesus, to be my Lord and Savior.
I invite you into my life by faith, and believe you died on the cross for my sins; past, present, and future.
I promise to live for you as a Christian, from this day forward.
I pray this in your name Jesus. Amen.*
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5) Now, don't doubt.

Salvation is by grace, through faith.

There's nothing you did, or ever can do, to deserve it. Its a free gift from God given to you by Christ's death & resurrection.

All you have to do is receive it!

- **Ephesians 2:8 says: "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God."**
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6) Tell someone about your decision.

➤ **Romans 10:9-10 says,**

**"If you confess with your mouth,
'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that
God raised him from the dead,
you will be saved.**

**For it is with your heart
that you believe and are justified,
and it is with your mouth
that you confess and are saved."**

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MAKE JESUS YOUR "LIFE".

Some put Christ in their pocket and add Him to their life. Others make Christ their life.

➤ **2 Corinthians 5:14,15:**

For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died.

And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

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➤ MAKE JESUS YOUR “LIFE”.

Some put Christ in their pocket and add Him to their life. Others make Christ their life.

➤ Colossians 3:1-4:

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

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➤ **MAKE JESUS YOUR “LIFE”.**

Jesus, thank You for all You've done for me by dying on the cross and by rising from the dead. I don't know what it means to “make You my life” but will You slowly teach me through the Holy Spirit's power. Now Lord, fill me with Your Spirit. In Jesus' Name I pray. Amen.
