

PathLights

*"Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path"
Psalm 119:104*

March 19, 2017

If I Am Lost

by Frank Himmel

When things go badly we often search for someone to blame. Whose fault will it be if I am lost eternally?

I can't blame God. He wants all to be saved (1 Timothy 2:3-4), His grace that brings salvation is for all (Titus 2:11), and His patience is providing opportunity for all to repent (2 Peter 3:9).

I can't blame Christ. He died for all (Hebrews 2:9), adequately atoning for the sins of all (1 John 2:2), and He invites all who will to come to Him (Matthew 11:28-30).

I can't blame the Holy Spirit. He completed His work of revealing (1 Corinthians 2:10-13) and confirming (Hebrews 2:3-4) God's plan for us. That includes guiding those who put it in written form to preserve it for all ages (2 Peter 1:20-21).

I can't blame the Bible. It contains both the truth I need to know and the evidence to convince me that it is so (John 20:30-31). In fact, it contains all I need to be complete, equipped for every good work (2 Timothy 3:16-17). And it is understandable (2 Corinthians 1:13).

I can't blame the devil. He is the tempter, the source of the sin that may cause me to be lost (Ephesians 2:1-2),

and he is a tireless, crafty foe (1 Peter 5:8; 2 Corinthians 2:11). Nevertheless, the Lord assures me that I can resist him (James 4:11) and stand firm against him (Ephesians 6:11).

I can't blame the preacher who taught me error. He will surely be held responsible for his action, but the Bible cautions me against false teachers and tells me to test what is said in the light of God's word (1 John 4:1; 1 Thessalonians 5:20-22).



I can't blame bad influences. To be sure, others may encourage me to do wrong—perhaps purposefully, perhaps not—yet my conduct is my choice (James 1:14-16). Besides, the Bible warns me about the danger of bad influences (Proverbs 22:24-25).

I can't blame bad circumstances. Some have it worse than others, yet all of us must overcome the sinful environment in which we live (Romans 12:2) and whatever adversity comes our way (Hebrews 12:1-4).

I can only blame myself. I am responsible. There is no excuse for my sin (John 15:22) or my failure to obey the gospel. "So then each one of us will give an account of himself to God" (Romans 14:12).

Let's take responsibility for ourselves now, seek out the truth, and be saved. Then, instead of looking for someone to blame at the judgment, we can glorify God. ■

Wash Your Robe



by Frank Himmel

“Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter by the gates into the city” (Revelation 22:14).

John had earlier said of the heavenly city, “Nothing unclean... shall ever come into it” (21:27). Our sin makes us unclean, but Jesus’ blood can purify us: “To Him who loves us and released us from our sins by His blood” (1:5). Those John saw standing before God’s throne were wearing white robes, having “washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb” (7:14).

Elsewhere, this washing is said to take place in baptism, which is into the death, the blood, of Jesus (Romans 6:3). “Now why do you delay? Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name” (Acts 22:16). “...Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word” (Ephesians 5:25-26). It is the “washing of regeneration,” of the new birth (Titus 3:5; John 3:3-5). It is a cleaning of the heart, not the flesh (1 Peter 3:21).

Have you washed your robe in Jesus’ blood? ■

10 Ways to Ruin Bible Classes

Adapted

- 1) Attend only when it is convenient.
- 2) When you do attend, come in late.
- 3) Ignore the visitors—unless they are sitting in your favorite seat!
- 4) Never study your lesson ahead of time.
- 5) Leave your Bible and workbook at home.
- 6) Either refuse to speak up or else dominate the discussion.
- 7) Lock in on some point of disagreement (a minor one will do) and insist that you are right.
- 8) Make comments about things that have nothing to do with the lesson.
- 9) Find something to criticize: the teacher, the topic, the approach, the pace... something!
- 10) Don’t make any effort to apply the lesson.

The Bible is meant to be bread for daily use, not cake for special occasions.



Service Leaders for the Week

	Sunday Morning	Sunday Evening	Wednesday Evening
GREETER	Josh Baucom	Chris Brooks	Mark Clifton
SONG LEADER	Gary Hagler	Bruce Williams	Greg Winget
OPENING PRAYER	Howard Moore	Bruce Hollander	
LORD’S SUPPER			
BREAD	Jason Chandler	Jason Chandler	
CUP	Kerry Gray	Kerry Gray	
CONTRIBUTION PRAYER	Rawland Daniel		
SERMON/INVITATION	Frank Himmel	Frank Himmel	Bruce Williams
CLOSING PRAYER	John Baucom	Josh Baucom	Daven Daniel