

A Seeking God

Text: What man among you, if he has a hundred sheep and has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open pasture and go after the one which is lost until he finds it? (Luke 15:4)

Article 17: We believe that our good God, by His marvelous wisdom and goodness, seeing that man had plunged himself in this manner into both physical and spiritual death and made himself completely miserable, set out to find him, though man, trembling all over, was fleeing from Him. And He comforted him, promising to give him His Son, “born of a woman,” to crush the head of the serpent, and to make him blessed.

Intro: A Seeking God

What man does

What God does

I. The Irritation

II. The Pharisee Approach

To deliver you from the way of evil, From the man who speaks perverse things; from those who leave the paths of uprightness To walk in the ways of darkness; who delight in doing evil And rejoice in the perversity of evil; Whose paths are crooked, And who are devious in their ways; (Proverbs 2:12-15)

Do not enter the path of the wicked And do not proceed in the way of evil men. Avoid it, do not pass by it; Turn away from it and pass on. For they cannot sleep unless they do evil; And they are robbed of sleep unless they make someone stumble. For they eat the bread of wickedness And drink the wine of violence. (Proverbs 4:14-17)

How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, nor stand in the path of sinners, nor sit in the seat of scoffers! (Psalm 1:1)

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect. (Romans 12:2)

Do not be deceived: "Bad company corrupts good morals." (1 Corinthians 15:33)

III. Jesus' Approach

Yes and no

You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men. You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven. (Matthew 5:13-16)

Application 1: God's love

God's mission

Application 2: God's seeking

A storm? A fish?

Application 3: What to do?

Application 4: Joy

At the cross, at the cross where I first saw the light, and the burden of my heart rolled away. It was there by faith I received my sight, and now I am happy all the day!