



Lost and Found

Matthew 11:28; 1 Peter 1:23

By: Pastor Dan Turpin

WestCoastChurch.com

Objective Sentence: Everyone should realize his or her need for Jesus by giving the two points of this message.

Introduction: On May 11, 2000 a lady found a new e-mail message on her computer, which simply said, "I love you". It looked innocent enough, perhaps even romantic. She clicked open the message, and the so-called "Love Bug" was born. With lightning speed it raced around the world, bringing politics and business to a halt. The "Love-Bug" email virus caused some \$10 billion in losses in 20 countries. The program, released a flood of e-mails with the subject line—I Love You—speeding through computer systems worldwide. At the time it was the biggest computer virus the world had ever seen, and the "first successful use of social engineering.

Onel de Guzman, a twenty-three year old Filipino man, a member of a small group of computer science students at AMA Computer College in Manila that called itself GRAMMERSoft was responsible for creating the **ILOVEYOU worm—often referred to as the Love Letter.**

Guzman said, "I admit I create viruses and it is possible that I may have mistakenly sent out the virus." Graham Cluley, a well know computer security expert, explained why the Love Bug's code spread so widely and quickly, "There was nothing particularly clever about the Love Bug's code ... the reason for its 'success' was that it tapped into a universal need: the desire to be loved.

But it's not the first time that a single virus has caused so much grief to mankind. In fact, it's a kind of replay of a deadlier virus that hit Planet Earth more than six thousand years ago, polluting the first human couple, Adam and Eve. Despite God's warning not to click on to Satan's message, they did so with appalling consequences for them, and through them all of mankind was affected with a virus is called "Sin".

Two Words Today—Lost and Found

- #1. Lost** (*Genesis 2:6-12* *When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food [lust of the flesh] and pleasing to the eye [lust of the eyes], and also desirable for gaining wisdom [pride],*

she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. ⁷ Then the eyes of both of them were opened, **and they realized they were naked [stripped of God's glorious covering]**; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves [cover their shame]. ⁸ Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and **they hid from the LORD God [fear]** among the trees of the garden. ⁹ But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?" ¹² The man said, "The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.

A. Pastor Dan: *Sin did not change God's attitude towards mankind; it changed mankind's attitude towards God. Sin caused mankind not to be comfortable in the presence of God. We see in Genesis 4:16 that an unpleasant uncomfortable troublesome feeling grew in Adam's descendants so that Cain went out from the LORD's presence and lived in the land of Nod, east of Eden. This feeling resulted in the flood of judgment.*

1. **An Unclean Thing** (Isaiah 64:6 *We are all like an unclean thing [infected with a sin virus], and all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags; we all fade as a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.*
 - a. **Ezekiel 18:4** Behold, all souls are Mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is Mine; the soul who sins shall die.
 - b. **E. Stanley Jones:** All religions are humanity's attempt to climb to God; Jesus is God's descent to humanity. All religions are our search for God; Jesus is God's search for us. Therefore there are many religions, but there is but one gospel.
 - c. **Romans 5:12** Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned.
 - d. **Romans 6:23** For the wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life.
 - e. **Rich Young Ruler: Matthew 19:16-22** Now behold, one came and said to Him, "Good^[a] Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life ... Jesus said to him, "If you want to enter into life, keep the commandments." Which ones? Jesus said, "'You shall not murder,' 'You shall not commit adultery,' 'You shall not steal,' 'You shall not bear false witness,' ¹⁹ 'Honor your father and your mother,'^[d] and, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself. ²⁰ The young man said to Him, "All these things I have kept from my youth.^[f] What do I still lack [he expected Jesus to reply—nothing]. ²¹ Jesus said to him, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me. ²² But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions. [If you fail the put the First Commandment First you will struggle with commitment to Christ. As faith without works is dead so works with God profit nothing.]
- #2. **Found** (Ephesians 2:8-9 *For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast.*)

A. Andrew Murray: *Salvation consists wholly in being saved from ourselves, or that which we are by nature.*

1. **Son of Man Came to Seek and Save:** (Titus 3:3-7 *For we ourselves were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another. ⁴ But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared,*

⁵ not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.)

- a. *M. Lloyd-Jones:* If humanity could have saved themselves there would have been no need for the Son of God to come on earth. Indeed, his coming is proof that people cannot save themselves.
- b. **Romans 5:1-2** Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.
- c. **Colossians 1:13-14** God has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed [translated] us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.
- d. *A.W. Pink:* We are recipients of a Fourfold salvation: saved from the penalty, power, presence and most importantly the pleasure of sin.
- e. **Romans 8:5-9** Those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those *who live* according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. ⁶ For to be carnally minded *is* death, but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace. ⁷ Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. ⁸ So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. **1 John 4:13** By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us because He has given us of His Spirit.
- f. *Paragraph Bible:* Salvation is in three tenses—past, present and future. We have been saved from the guilt and penalty of sin. We are being saved from the habit, power and dominion of sin; and we are also to be saved from the presence and consequences of sin.
- f. **Hebrews 9:22** According to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission.
- g. **1 John 2:1-2** (*Propitiation—Spirit Filled Life Bible*) Propitiation means the appeasement of divine wrath by a sacrificial offering. Some deny that the Bible contains this idea because they do not think a loving God would ever personally exercise wrath against His creatures. But the idea is clearly implied by the Greek word for propitiation, and is the only saving solution to the fact of God’s wrath against sin (Romans 1:16-3:20). At the heart of the Gospel is the fact that if Christ did not bear the wrath of God that we deserved, then that wrath is still stored up for us.
- h. **Acts 2:38-39** **Repent**, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the **remission** of sins; and you shall **receive** the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.
- i. *E. Stanley Jones:* Nobody is ever farther than three steps from the kingdom of God. Step 1 is self-surrender, which includes sin-surrender. Step 2 is accepting the gift of God—the gift of salvation. And step 3 is obedience—walking in obedience to the unfolding will of God. Anybody, anywhere, anytime, can take these three steps and will be “in.” If anybody will take the way of Jesus, he or she will find God. But really we don’t find God; we let God find us.

Closing and Invitation: There is a famous oil field in West Texas near the town of Iraan (Ira + Ann) known as the **Yates Oil Field**. The land on which this oil field was discovered was owned by Ira and Ann Yates,

ranchers barely managing to scrape out a living during those difficult years in American history. Yates bought the land in the 1920s which in that decade more than 600,000 farmers went bankrupt. Ira and Ann were having difficulty making enough money to pay the mortgage and taxes; it did not look as though they were going to make it. They were in jeopardy of losing their farm.

On a hunch, Ira invited Transcontinental Oil Company to explore his land. In 1926, a partnership consisting of [Mid Kansas Oil Company](#) (part of The Ohio Oil Company, the ancestor of [Marathon Oil](#)) and Transcontinental Oil, drilled an exploratory well on the Yates ranch approximately 1,000 feet below ground surface, and hit a rich productive zone, producing a "gusher" – an uncontrolled spew of crude oil, under intense pressure, into the air. The first well came in at 80,000 barrels of oil a day. Many subsequent wells were more than twice as large. Other wells drilled nearby also hit substantial quantities of oil – it seemed to be everywhere and Ira and Ann Yates owned the land and the mineral rights to it all. This couple who had basically been living in poverty were farming and walking across the land that produced multiplied billions of dollars. Ira and Ann were wealthy and didn't know it.

Both Yates and the oilmen immediately recognized the significance of their find. Yates became an instant millionaire. He proceeded to sell oil leases from his front porch and accumulated \$180,000 in one day. The oil boom town of Red Barn sprang up around the Yates homestead. The Yates Oil Field has produced more than one billion barrels of oil, making it one of the largest in the United States, and in 2009 it remains productive since fracturing has exploded, the Yates field has seen very heavy activity in the past 3 years. Estimated recoverable reserves are still approximately one billion barrels, which represents approximately 50% of the original oil in place.

In 1938 Yates donated 152 acres for the new town of Iraan. He and his wife also donated Yates Hill at Camp Louis Farr to the Concho Valley Council of Boy Scouts. After his wife's death, Yates erected the Annie Yates Memorial Citadel for the Salvation Army in San Angelo. Ira Yates died on April 12, 1939