

God's Lost & Found

An important place in many institutions is the lost & found. At my granddaughter's school there is a "Lost & Found" room. In the Bible, the Greek word "*apollumi*" is translated "*lost*," sometimes "*perished*" or "*destroyed*." In some cases the lost, perished or destroyed item or person is found, sometimes not. In the case of the "lost" coin, the "lost" sheep, or the "lost" Prodigal Son, that which was lost was found again. Sometimes it is used to describe the fate of unrighteous and wicked people, as in Romans 2:12, Peter 2:12, and 2 Thes. 2:9-10. The wicked and unrighteous are not forever lost. They are only lost until they are found again.

If you want to get technical about it, they have already been found but have not yet been redeemed and returned to their owner. They are in a manner of speaking in God's lost & found. They have been found and are just waiting to be picked up by their owner. They don't call the "lost & found" room at school the "lost" room. They call it the "lost & found" room because someone has already found the items in it. They are only being held there until their rightful owner comes to pick them up.

The Bible says that we are all like sheep, who have become lost (ie. perished). Jesus is our good shepherd and rightful owner, who came to earth to seek and save us. He is God incarnate, who, according to 1 Timothy 4:10, is the "*Savior of all men, and especially of those who believe*." He is already the Savior of all of us. Some of us have been returned to our owner, while others still remain in the lost & found room. God knows the precise location of all His lost sheep and has sent His Son to pick them up. Jesus said that after He goes back to Heaven He will prepare a place for us. When He is "lifted up" He will draw every last one of us back to our home in Heaven.