

WITHOUT EXCUSE?

Romans 1:18-23

By. Richard C. Chambers, Evangelist

Are billions who have never heard the Gospel lost in their sins? One should think twice he attempts to give an answer to this question, lest he unwittingly attacks the foundations of the Christian faith.

- I. How about those who have never even heard the Name of Jesus?
 - a. If we ask, "Is God just?," we question God's character.
 - b. If we ask, "Must one come only to God by Christ?" we question Christ's veracity. John 14:6
 - c. If we say, "They will be judged by their own conscience," we question the necessity of Christ's death on Calvary.
 - d. If we say, "A man will be saved without Christ," we deny Christ's own words. John 3:3
 - e. If we say, "Innocent people will then be lost," we are denying what the Scripture affirms. Ro. 3:22-23
 - f. If we say, "They will not be lost," we deny the penalty for sin. Rom. 6:23
 - g. If we say, "There is another means of judgment," we make the ministry of the Church a farce, for He has given unto us the ministry of reconciliation." 2 Cor. 5:20
 - h. In short, to affirm salvation for those who have never heard the Gospel denies the fundamental doctrines of Christianity. The heathen cannot be saved, for it is against God's agencies of salvation: namely, the Son, the Spirit, the Word, and the Church. It is against God's warnings. It is contrary to His promises. It would even be against His wisdom. Heaven would be populated with more unregenerate men who were unprepared by life's pilgrimage to render eternal praise to God than there are redeemed. It strikes a blow at God's very scheme of redemption, making the "Calvary plan" unnecessary. It thwarts the evangelistic thrust of the Church.
- II. **But another suggests, "They will be Judged by their own conscience and the light they have received."**
 - a. Rom. 2:12 For all who have sinned without the Law will also perish without the Law, and all who have sinned under the Law will be judged by the Law;
 - b. Romans 2:12 is used to prove this theory, but it denies the very doctrine is affirmed. It states that the heathen will perish without the law. Paul shows here that [their] conscience accused them, though they had not the law. This passage does not show them excused, but, in fact, without excuse. The gist of the Scripture is that both Jew, who had the law, and the Gentile, who did not have the law, are guilty before God.
 - c. The law condemned the Jew, while the Gentile was condemned by his conscience. Paul summarizes, by saying both the Jews and the Gentiles are lost. Rom. 3:9-10, 19, 23.
 - d. How will they be justified? It is through faith in Christ that both the Jew and the Gentile can be redeemed. It is by His blood, shed on Calvary, that is the propitiation (wrath removing sacrifice) for our sins. It is by faith in His blood that men are saved. This is the only way God can be just, and the justifier of sinners. Rom. 3:25-26

- III. **But someone will say, “Do you really believe that two billion unevangelized souls are lost?”**
- a. I answer, “Yes I do, and with them millions more who profess to be Christians.”
- IV. **“But,” another says, “Some of the people of the world do not even have the Bible in their language or dialect. And some have not even heard His name!”**
- a. This is true, but what are we doing about it? We keep sending missionaries to those who have already heard. It is estimated by some that 95% of all mission work is done among those who have already been told of Christ. Someone said, “No man has the right to hear the Gospel twice, till everyone has heard it once.”
- b. But this is not bad philosophy, but it is not one we practice. It is due to believing that there may be another way, a second chance, that keeps us from going to those in darkness. Unfortunately, we have problems getting Christians to believe that those who have heard and reject the Gospel will actually be lost, they believe that all religions are basically one in purpose. The ecumenical spirit has so permeated our Churches, we’d fellowship together with Hindu, Moslem, and Jew as brethren.
- c. The doctrine of the “brotherhood of man” is a lie. One is either of God the Father, or one is of “your father the devil.” John 8:44; Luke 10:29; Mark 3:33-35
- d. He allowed them to have vile affections. Rom. 1:26
- e. He gave them over to depraved attitudes. Rom. 1:28
- V. **We have the inspired Word to tell us that they know God**
- a. They know God by personal experience. Rom. 1:19; Rom. 2:15
- b. His eternal power and Godhead are clearly seen. Rom. 1:20
- c. They hold or suppress the truth by their unrighteousness. Rom. 1:18
- d. They are without excuse. Rom. 1:20
- e. **Idolatry is not an attempt to find God. Idolatry is an attempt to ignore God. It is an unthankful rebellion to the true God.** There is no rational way to make something with one’s own hands, and fall down to worship it and say, “Save me, thou art my god.” This is a willful, stupid, rebellious act against the true God. They are not innocent, ignorant souls.
- f. They do not like to retain God in their knowledge. Rom. 1:29
- g. They know that they which commit such things are worthy of death. Rom. 1:32
- h. They are condemned for what they know. They are not condemned for whom they do not know. God has given them over to do what they desire to do.
- i. They love their lusts. Rom. 1:24
- j. They love their degrading passions. Rom. 1:26
- k. They followed their depraved minds. Rom. 1:28
- l. They have broken the simplest rules: i.e. to love God with all your heart, your soul and mind. Thus their foolish hearts are darkened, their souls are depraved, and their minds are reprobate.

What are we going to do about them? God didn’t give up on them. He gave them over to these ungodly acts, affections and attitudes. He is not willing that they be lost, for He wants no one to perish.
Eze. 3:18-19