

Are the Heathen Really Lost?

By Emanuel Esh

Did you ever question what God would do on the Judgment Day with the heathen who have never heard of Jesus? Would a loving and merciful God condemn the heathen, who have never had an opportunity to hear the saving gospel of Jesus Christ, to an eternal, burning hellfire?

To those who have heard the gospel and stubbornly refuse to bow the knee to the Lord Jesus Christ, we would agree (according to the written Word of God) are in danger of eternal punishment; and if they die without Christ, they shall spend eternity without Christ.

But what about the heathen who have never heard?

Errors of Man's Thinking

Many of God's people, even His true evangelical people, are losing their conviction about the lost condition of the heathen. Many true Christians are not burdened about the souls of the lost around them. They do not really believe that souls are lost apart from Christ. An atheist once said, "If I were to believe what you say is true about an eternal punishment in hell for sin, then I would be willing to crawl on broken glass to warn every person possible."

To think that the heathen will somehow be saved outside of the gospel of Christ is to believe in error. Nearly all

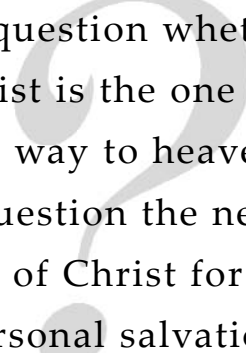
error begins with a false view of the **state**, the **need**, and the **danger** of man. The basic problem is that people are thinking "*above that which is written.*"

The Bible declares man to be the enemy of God, dead in trespasses and sins, condemned to an everlasting destruction, and in need of a Savior. God has declared in His Word that the "*wages of sin is death,*" and that He "*will by no means clear the guilty,*" and again, "*that without shedding of blood is no remission [of sins].*"

Let us face the facts. **If** man is not an enemy of God, then he needs no reconciliation; **if** not a slave, he needs no redemption; **if** not a sinner, he needs no Savior; **if** not dead in sins, he needs no life; **if** not depraved, he needs no holiness; **if** not polluted and filthy, he needs no cleansing; and **if** not guilty, he needs no forgiveness.

Did God blunder in sending His only begotten Son to redeem mankind who, although without God and without Christ, were not without hope and are not in danger of eternal hellfire? Must we charge Christ with the folly of

leaving heaven to come and die for persons not **hopelessly lost**, and those not altogether cursed? Was Jesus mistaken or ignorant of some other way when he gave the Great Commission to His disciples to go and preach the gospel to all nations? To question whether Christ is the one and only way to heaven is to question the necessity of Christ for my personal salvation.



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Many Christians hold to the false hope that the heathen are not lost because they have never heard the gospel.

It is said that a student once asked Charles Spurgeon if he thought the heathen who had never heard the gospel would be saved. He answered, "It is more a question with me whether we who have had the gospel and fail to give it to those who have it not, can be saved."

If for the heathen the door to heaven were open to them through ignorance, then it would indeed be folly to preach to them the way of Christ.

Examining God's Truth

We must stand on the Word of God and its plain teachings on this subject. Let every Christian consider the truth from God's Word.

Dear Reader, stop, and before reading on, get your Bible and follow along in the Word of God. Allow God to rivet the truth about this matter deep in your heart.

According to Psalm 9:17, who "will be turned into hell"? ("The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God.").

See for yourself the condition of the heathen in these verses:

- Acts 26:18: "To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me."
- Romans 1:18-20: "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation

of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse."

- Romans 2:8-9: "But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath, tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile."
- See also Romans 2:12-15 and 3:10-23.

Meditate on 2 Corinthians 5:10,11: "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad. Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences."

Memorize 2 Corinthians 5:14-21. If Christ "died for all", then are **all** dead? **Who** should we live unto? And **what** is the ministry given to us?

Read carefully Ephesians 2:1-12. **Who** was dead in trespasses and sins? **Who** was bound by the spirit of disobedience? **Who** was saved by grace through faith? Was it not you?

Were you not a Gentile? What does it mean to be without Christ, without God, and without hope?

Is there salvation in any other? Is there some other name somewhere under heaven whereby men might possibly be saved? See Acts 4:12.

Consider the consequences (2 Thessalonians 1:7-9) of those who do not know God and who do not obey the gospel.

Ponder deeply Jude 14-15. Who is the "**all**" who will be convinced of their ungodliness?

What is your answer to the four questions in Romans 10:14, 15? "How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard?

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And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent?..."

Have we forgotten how we were saved? Was there some other name? Was there some other religion?

Let us remember that no substitute religion can save any sinner from his sins, no drunkard from his drink, no miser from his money, no harlot from her shame, no proud man from his pride, and no Pharisee from his self-righteousness. No form of religion—not even the

Christian form—can save one man from his sin. Only the crucified and resurrected Lord Jesus Christ has the power to save a man from sin. It is **His** blood alone that can cleanse a sinner from his guilty sin stains.

What will God do with us if we refuse to obey? How will we be judged if we refuse to GO and PREACH, or SEND and SUPPORT in prayer with our hearts and in money from our wealth?

