

San Juan church of Christ

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What Does God's Word Say About...

Those Who Never Heard the Gospel - Part 2

When Peter spoke to the unbelieving Jews after the church was established (Acts 2:41, 47), he said "And now, brethren (fellow Jews), I know that you acted in ignorance, just as your rulers did also" (Acts 3:17). However, Peter, did not excuse their sin of crucifying Jesus due to their lack of knowledge. Peter later told these same Jews "And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12).

Many times we hear people use the excuse for not wanting to be obedient to God when they make the statement "What about those people over the centuries who have never heard about Jesus Christ, are they lost?" Paul wrote in the letter to the church in Rome "there is no partiality with God. For ALL who have sinned without the Law [Old Testament] will also perish without the Law, and ALL who have sinned under the Law will be judged by the Law; For when Gentiles [those who were not under the Jewish Law] who do not have the Law do instinctively the things of the Law, these, not having the Law are a law to themselves, in that they show the work of the Law written in their hearts, their conscience bearing witness and their thoughts alternately accusing or defending them, on the day when, according to my gospel, God will judge the secrets of men through Christ Jesus" (Rom. 2:11-16). Notice Paul is saying in these verses, that those who sin while under the Law are judged by that Law. Yet those who sin without the Law also perish! Having or not having the Law did not alter their outcome. It only altered the standards by which they were judged.

People are lost due to their sins and it causes a breach between man and God (Isa. 59:1-2). Sin is universally found in all men (Rom. 3:23). Because of sin all men have earned death [eternal separation from God] for their sins (Rom. 6:23). Without accepting God's remedy for sin, man remains condemned (Rom. 5:16-19). Without being reconciled to God, we are enemies of God (Rom. 5:10).

We need to consider how people are saved. "If you consent and obey, you will eat the best of the land" (Isa. 1:19). To what must we consent and to whom must we obey? Christ died for our sins (1 Cor. 15:3) and we are justified by the blood of Christ (Rom. 5:8-9). Only through Christ can a person reach heaven (John 14:6). Only IN Christ will we have redemption (Rom. 3:24) and will we have forgiveness of sin (Col. 1:14). How do we get IN Christ? (Gal. 3:27)

So that mankind may know how to be saved God has committed to the believer the "word of reconciliation." Therefore, we who believe in Christ are ambassadors for Christ that the world may be reconciled to God (2 Cor. 2:5, 18-20). It is the believer's responsibility to instruct the ignorant through the word of God (Matt. 28:19-20).

Please send any comments, questions, or requests for a Bible study to:
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