

Are Those Who Have Never Heard the Gospel Lost?

The other day I was asked the question, “What about the **lost** who have never heard the Gospel? Will God send them to hell?” Many people have asked a question similar to this; some earnestly want to **understand** the ways of God, others in order to charge God with **not being fair** so that they may seem justified in not believing in Him.

The answer to the question is **yes**. If a person does not believe in Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour they are lost, and if they die in that condition, they will go to Hell, whether or not they have heard the Gospel (John 3: 3,5,36). Does this seem fair? It probably doesn't — unless you know the facts.

While God is sovereign and almighty and does not need a mere mortal to defend His actions, He does give us **the reasons** in His Word for his actions. In Romans 1:18-20 we are told this: *“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.”*

God declares here that He gives knowledge or light unto every person. What knowledge is this? The knowledge of His **existence** and **attributes**.

God is invisible to physical eyes, yet we can clearly see His existence. How is this? Just as the wind is invisible, yet we see the existence of wind by the swaying of trees and rustling of leaves, so we see the existence of God by the things He has made, that is, His creation.

We learn more than the existence of God by observing His creation: we learn of *“His eternal power and Godhead.”* Since creation is so massive (the sun is 1,300,000 times larger than the earth), it requires a creator who is **all powerful**. Since creation is so vast (millions of light years), it requires a creator who is **all present**. Since creation is so complex (from the orbit of the planets to the DNA in a human cell) it requires a creator who is **all knowing**. Design requires a designer. Since the creation has been here for millenniums and continues, it requires a creator who is **eternal**. For a person to say there is no God means he is rejecting the truth, *“holding the truth in unrighteousness”* (Romans 1:18).

Considering the evidence of creation, the next logical step is to ask, “If such a great Creator made me, what **purpose** does He have for my life and how can I **know** more about Him?” As a person seeks to know more of God, He will reveal more truth to him. As we come to the light we will have more light. The Lord promises, *“And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart”* (Jeremiah 29:13). If a person cannot find God, it is because he is not looking!

In the scriptures we have examples where God sent a preacher with the Gospel to persons in response to their seeking. Cornelius (Acts 10) and Lydia (Acts 16) are examples.

Summing it up, everyone has enough light to know God, and if they will follow that light, God will give them additional light, even enough to understand the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Therefore, if a lost person dies in his sin he has not followed the light God gave: he is *“without excuse”* (Romans 1:20).

How about you? **Are you running from the truth or to the truth?** If you will come to Him and trust in Him you will find forgiveness, peace, purpose in life, and eternal fellowship with Him.

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