

"What About Those Who Have Never Heard the Gospel?" Romans 1:18-20, Acts 17:30-31

So many people wonder how God will determine the eternal destinies of those who have never actually heard the gospel. Thankfully, the Scriptures reveal quite a bit for us to formulate an answer as we consider tribesmen in Africa, babies, and the mentally handicapped as possible examples.

The Global Epidemic ...

- We Are All Condemned
- We Are All Culpable
- We Are All Clear

Clarity Through Creation ...

"The heavens are telling of the glory of God; and their expanse is declaring the work of His hands. Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night reveals knowledge."
—Psalm 19:1-2

- We Are All Defenseless

The Unique Vaccine ...

- Exclusive Cure (John 14:6; Acts 4:12)
- Immunization Method

"Whoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved. How will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher? How will they preach unless they are sent? ... So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ."
—Romans 10:13-17

The Distribution Problem ...

- Basic Assumptions ...

– God Desires None Perish

"He is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance." —2 Peter 3:9

– God Defends the Defenseless

"Let the children alone, and do not hinder them from coming to Me; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." —Matthew 19:14

– God Declared to All Believe in Jesus

"Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent, because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men." —Acts 17:30-31

- With Age & Capacity ...

“Take care what you listen to ... For whoever has, to him more shall be given; and whoever does not have, even what he has shall be taken away from him.”
—Mark 4:24-25

- Without Age or Capacity ...

“But now he has died; why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I will go to him, but he will not return to me.” —2 Samuel 12:23

Our Response ...

- Share the Gospel (Overseas?)!
- Live Out the Gospel!