

# What About Those Who Have Never Heard?

(2 Thessalonians 1:8)

- Introduction:
1. This is a question that we must wrestle with because both unbelievers and believers what to know.
  2. Furthermore it is a compelling question because the answer to the question impacts the character of God as well as the duty of man.
  3. As we answer this question, let us commit to allowing the word of God to answer the question and not allow our answer to be motivated by emotions.
  4. So what will happen to those who have never heard the gospel?

## I. What Does The Bible Say?

- A. (John 14:6).
- B. (John 3:14-16).
- C. (John 8:24).
- D. (2 Thessalonians 1:7-8).

## II. Questions Often Raised

- A. Doesn't this create a problem with the character of God?
  1. God doesn't need a PR person to improve his image.
  2. Trying to remove what we think is a character issue just creates another.
  3. If we reimagine God being too good to let those who didn't know Jesus to suffer, then we create a new problematic image of a God who has another way to save men, but made his Son die on the cross anyway (Matthew 26:39).
- B. Why evangelize if one is saved in ignorance?
  1. This would undermine the need to evangelize.
  2. (Matthew 28:19-20).
- C. What about the innocent tribesmen in a far away place?
  1. There are no "innocent" tribesmen.
  2. (Romans 1:20) There are no "innocent" people.
  3. We are lost because we sin, not because we haven't heard the gospel.

## III. Our Responsibility

- A. We must get busy and get to the task of evangelism!
- B. Evangelism is not a talent, it's a command.
- C. We need to stop talking about it and do it, using the resources available to us.
- D. We, by ourselves, may not be able to set the world on fire with the gospel but when the Lord returns, I pray that he finds us striking matches!

- Conclusion:
1. Because of our sins, we all stand condemned.
  2. That's true of those who know of Jesus and that is still true of those who don't know Jesus.
  3. Therefore, we have an urgent task before us.
  4. Now is the time to work...rest comes later!