

*Is God fair to consign the heathen
who has never heard the Gospel to eternity without Christ?*

We must ever keep in mind that, in the beginning, all mankind descended from Adam and Eve, then, after the Flood, all mankind descended from the three sons of Noah...and God's revelation to man was the *common* property of all the ancestors of all the nations that existed at that time!

- IT WAS GOD'S RESPONSIBILITY TO REVEAL HIMSELF TO MANKIND
- IT WAS THEN MAN'S RESPONSIBILITY TO ACT UPON THAT REVELATION WHICH GOD HAD SO FREELY GIVEN TO HIM.

What is so unfair about that?

When God created the world, He created it with a stream of humanity flowing through it and He gave every creature...whom He had designed for eternity...a "**free will**"...and **He revealed Himself...and His will for man...to all creatures**. Nothing could be more fair than that!

God is not responsible for fact that men, having knowledge of God, refused to accept that knowledge and made "*gods*" unto himself...which made him a slave of his own wicked thinking and entrenched his mind in spiritual darkness...because...**God had revealed Himself to mankind!**

God revealed Himself...and made His will known to mankind...through His Word... first through His **verbal** Word...then through His **written** Word...and...finally through His "*Word made flesh*" in the life of Jesus Christ!

In addition...God also reveals Himself to mankind by placing...within every man...and "*inner impulse*" to know Him. Every man has a built in "*feeling*" that life is incomplete without a Supernatural God. Every man has...within his soul...an appetite for the infinite... for the spiritual...within his soul.

What a pitiful thing it is to find that, no matter where one goes in the world, he finds "*religious*" people trying to satisfy this spiritual appetite...this spiritual hunger...without any real lasting success.

Romans 1:19 states, "*That which can be known of God is clear to their...*[that is, mankind's]...**inner moral sense**, because God Himself has made it clear to them." Despite the fact that God has put...within every man...an inner moral sense...a "*drawing power*"...that should cause him to search for evidence that marks the road to God, God will **never** interfere with man's free will!

NOT ONLY HAS GOD GIVEN MANKIND AN "*INTERNAL REVELATION*" ...A CONSCIOUSNESS WITHIN HIS SOUL...OF THE FACT...THE REALITY...OF HIS EXISTENCE...BUT HE HAS ALSO GIVEN MANKIND AN "*EXTERNAL WITNESS*"... THE WHOLE UNIVERSE...WHICH LITERALLY SHOUTS OF THIS REALITY...OF **THE FACT OF GOD**.

Romans 1:20 states, "*God's invisible attributes ever since the world was made have been clearly perceptible and understandable **through the things He has made**, namely His eternal*

power and divine character. There is therefore no possible defense for the heathen's rejection of God."

Despite the fact that the earth does shout of...and give witness to...the reality of God, yet, nonetheless, man chooses to repress this truth in preference to going his own selfish way.

Because from the beginning of time man has had this truth of the fact of God...being reminded continually of this truth by the whole world around him that declares God's handiwork...there is, therefore, no excuse, whatsoever, for man not to acknowledge his Creator, Almighty God!

Even if men do not hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ, they still have:

- (1) *"the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the meanwhile accusing or else excusing them" [Romans 2:15], and*
- (2) *"that which may be known of God is manifest to them, for God hath showed 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 1:19-20].*

THE QUESTION WHICH MAY ARISE IS, "WILL THOSE WHO HAVE NEVER HEARD THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST BE SAVED THROUGH SOME OTHER MEANS... OR CAN ANYONE **EVER** BE SAVED BY ANY MEANS OTHER THAN THROUGH JESUS CHRIST?"

The answer is, simply, **No!**"

Jesus said, *"No man cometh to the Father, but by Me" [John 14:6]*, and Acts 4:12 states, *"Neither is there salvation in any other, for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."*

If there was any other way for man to be saved...other than his accepting Jesus Christ as his Savior...can anyone honestly believe that would God have allowed His Son, Jesus Christ, to die on the Cross?

And...if the heathen can be saved without accepting Christ...based on the argument that they've never had the opportunity to accept Christ, because they've never *"heard"* the Gospel ...why did Christ give the Church *"the Great Commission"* to take the Gospel to all the world?... because...would not the heathen be better off not to hear the Gospel and, therefore, not have to be faced with choosing whether or not he was going to believe...or disbelieve... what he has heard?

All men have a conscience, but...like the law which cannot save man but can only condemn him...likewise, man's conscience alone cannot save him. Those who *have* heard of Jesus Christ...and have rejected Him as their Savior...will stand before God condemned... and, likewise, those who have not heard of Jesus Christ will also stand before God condemned, however, their indictment will not be because they have rejected Jesus Christ as their Savior... because they are not guilty of rejecting Christ as their Savior since they, never having heard of Christ, never had the opportunity to accept Him as their Savior...but, rather, their indictment will be based on the fact that *they did not live according to what their conscience dictated*, simply because they could not...they were unable to...live according to these dictates because, without

the divine life of Jesus Christ living within them, they lacked the power...the power of the Holy Spirit...to do so.

*"For as many as have sinned **without the law shall also perish without the law** and as many as have sinned in the law shall be judged by the law" [Romans 2:12].*

Romans 1:18-21 states, *"The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities - His eternal power and divine nature - have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse. For although they knew God, they neither glorified Him as God nor gave thanks to Him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened."*

This same passage, studied from the "**26 Translations of the New Testament**," teaches, *"For God's divine retribution is being revealed from heaven against every form of ungodliness and wickedness of men who smother the truth by their unrighteousness, because that which is known of God is manifested in their hearts, for God hath manifested it unto them. For God's invisible attributes ever since the world was made have been visible to the eye of reason in the things He has made, even His eternal power and divine character. There is therefore no possible defense for their conduct, because, although they knew God, they have refused to honor Him as God or give thanks to Him. Rather, they busied themselves with silly speculations about Him, and their stupid minds groped about in the dark."*

And Romans 2:12-15 teaches: *"All who sin apart from the law will also perish apart from the law, and all who sin under the law will be judged by the law. For it is not those who hear the law who are righteous in God's sight, but it is those who obey the law who will be declared righteous. (Indeed, when Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law, since they show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts now accusing, now even defending them.)"*

This passage, studied from the "**26 Translations of the New Testament**," teaches, *"All who sin without having the knowledge of the Law shall perish without the punishment of the Law; and as many as have sinned having the knowledge of the Law shall be judged by the Law; (For it is not those who hear the Law read who are righteous in the sight of God, but those who obey the Law that will be pronounced righteous. When the heathen who have no Law obey by natural instinct the commands of the Law, these, having not the Law, are a Law unto themselves; their sense of right and wrong giving witness to the existence of such a Law, and their inward thoughts, answering one to the other, accuse, or else defend them)."*

When the heathen...who had never heard the Gospel of Jesus Christ...stands before God in that eternal day, he will be judged in the light of his having never heard the Gospel, however, he will **NOT** be saved because, *"Except a man be born again...born from above... he cannot see the Kingdom of God"* [John 3:3].

The "**Law**" was given to reveal God's will for man, however, no man can be saved *by the Law* because he is unable to keep the law...he has insufficient ability to live **by** the Law. The

law's purpose was to "*bring man to Christ*"...to make him aware of his need of Christ in order to be able to keep the Law. (See Galatians 3:24.)

Despite the fact that the person who has never heard about Christ has: "*an inward homing instinct*" which draws him to God and "*nature's...creation's...declaration of God*" ...he still, nonetheless does **NOT** have the necessary spiritual stamina to do what he knows to be right and, therefore, he will stand before God condemned.

We must always remember two facts:

- (1) Not one of us *deserves* to hear the Gospel, and
- (2) Despite the fact that God is under no obligation to any man, He still did everything that Divine Love could do to save **ALL** mankind...even to the giving of His Own Son on the cross!

Because God has commissioned the Church to convey the "*Good News*" of the Gospel to the whole world...to **all** mankind...we are continually faced with the problem of how we are to do that...how are we to fulfill Christ's "*Great Commission*" to us!

THE ILLUSTRATION OF "*THE UNDELIVERED LETTER*".

As the farmer sat stunned...at the realization that he was "*Bankrupt*" and, as a result, was about to lose his farm...he wondered how he was ever going to be able to tell his family. They would be forced to leave the old home place and go - *who knew where?* He felt despondent as he realized that they had lost everything and were, therefore, hopelessly ruined. Then, just before they were about to be evicted, he received a letter from a wealthy prince which read:

"I have heard of your predicament and I am going to help you! Enclosed you will find a check which will pay off your financial obligations, repair your barns and equipment, and restock your flocks and herds. When this money is used up, there is more for anything you may have need of."

The farmer could hardly believe his eyes and, after he read the amazing letter to his family, he held the check high and said, "*Look, it is no dream, here is the check!*" And at this, they all began to dance around the room because...in their darkest hour...they had been **saved!**

The farmer's mind was in such a state of joy and happiness that it wasn't until sometime later that he noticed a postscript to that letter which read:

P.S. - *"With this letter I am also enclosing another envelope which is address to a **Mr. Heath Enlost**. The envelope contains a letter and check that is similar to yours and, like in the case of yourself, the check will meet all of his financial obligations and will save him at a most difficult time. Please deliver the letter and check to him in person."*

He thought it strange that the prince would expect him to deliver the letter since he didn't know this "**Mr. Heath Enlost**." Maybe Mr. Heath Enlost was ignorant...or repulsive... and, since he lived so far away, why didn't the prince find someone who lived closer to him to take the letter to him? "*I'll take it to him when I have time...I'm busy right now,*" he said to himself.

Well, the farmer became busier than ever because his new-found prosperity revolutionized his life and made it possible for him to do so many of the projects that he had dreamed of doing.

He had carefully placed the letter to Mr. Heath Enlost between the leaves of the big family Bible and kept promising himself, "*I'll deliver that letter when I get the time.*"

His farm became the very picture of prosperity what with the fences up...the barns and house repainted...a lovely new weather vane atop his barn...and big, fat, cattle in the feed lot.

Time hastened on...days slipped into weeks...weeks into months...the months into years. One day a neighbor stopped for a chat and, as the two of them talked about all sorts of things, in the course of conversation, the neighbor said, "*Did you hear about the terrible thing that happened last night...that a man starved to death?*"

"*The very idea of anyone starving to death in times like these,*" exclaimed the farmer. "*Why, just look at my barns and buildings...look at my fat cattle...I've never known such good*

times" ...and...after going on and on about his prosperity...he finally asked, "What was the man's name?"

The neighbor thought for a moment and then said, *"It was Mr. Heath Enlost, I believe, yes, that was his name...Mr. Heath Enlost."*

When the farmer heard the name, his heart sank. He dashed into the house and, hastily grabbing the family Bible, took out the undelivered letter, now yellowed with age. There was the name and address as plain as could be, *"Mr. Heath Enlost."*

As the awful realization came to him like a crushing blow, he thought: *"Here in my hands is the prince's letter and check that he had intended for the man who died last night of starvation. This check would have solved all his problems and saved him from destruction...I was the one charged to deliver it and I failed to do so!"*

By now, you, of course, realize that this story is a parable...in our dark hour the Gospel of Christ came and saved us and, now, the "heathens" await this letter of deliverance which lies within our Bibles.

If the heathens do not hear, whose fault is it? And if they are not saved from destruction, can anyone really blame the Prince Who sent the letter and check that would save them?

Before closing, it must be added that any individual who desires to find the true God ...and, who is willing to believe and accept God's inner revelation to him...may be guided by the Holy Spirit...(Whose ministry it is...according to John 16:18...to "*convince*" *the world of sin, of righteousness, and of Judgment*")...into an awareness of his own sin and his need to trust his Creator-God to save him.

Jesus Christ is the "*true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world*" [John 1:9] and it certainly is possible, in the dim hope that one has, to call upon the true God and to be saved...because...when we say that one can be saved **only** through Jesus Christ, we do not mean that one must use our English name...word...**J E S U S**...because...in order to be saved, one must, simply, realize that he is unable to save himself and he must be willing to rely completely on God to save him. Whenever **any** person arrives at this kind of an attitude of faith and trust in God, God will reach out to him...and save him.

- Of that, I am sure!