

July 22, 2018



"WHAT HAPPENS TO THOSE WHO NEVER HEAR THE GOSPEL?"

ROMANS 1-3; ROMANS 10; ROMANS 15

DEFINITION OF UNREACHED PEOPLES: An unreached people are a people group among which there is no indigenous community of believing Christians with adequate numbers and resources to evangelize this people group without outside assistance.

Unreached people groups have less than 2% Christ-followers.

Paul writes the book of Romans to persuade a church body of the need to take the gospel to the peoples of Spain who have never heard it before (Romans 15:23-29).

QUESTION 1: Why is hell even a possible eternal destination for unreached peoples?

ANSWER: Every person born into this world has rejected God (Romans 1:21-23).

TRUTH: Rejecting God leads to condemnation.

ANSWER: Every person born into this world stands guilty before God (Romans 3:10-12).

QUESTION 2: What do the unreached peoples really know about God?

ANSWER: All peoples in this world know God the Father (Romans 1:18-20).

All peoples are aware of two things:

1. Every person is accountable to know that there is a God (Romans 1:19-20).
2. Every person is accountable to God because of their conscience (Romans 2:14-16).

QUESTION 3: Is it fair for the unreached to never get an opportunity to hear the gospel?

ANSWER: If people lived and died on this planet with Jesus never having come to this world to die for our sins, if He left us all to perish, that would be fair (Romans 3:20-23).

TRUTH: If grace was owed to people, it would not be grace.

QUESTION 4: How will the unreached come to know about the gospel?

ANSWER: His Church. God created and commissioned and sent His church to make His name known to all peoples (Romans 10:5-15).

God did not create a mission for His church; instead He created a Church for His mission.
–Christopher Wright

The Bible is not trying to answer the question, “what will happen to those who die and never hear the gospel?” The Bible is seeking to eliminate the question altogether. –David Platt

CONCLUSION: When Spurgeon was asked, “Will the heathen that has never heard be saved?”, he replied, “The real question is whether or not those that have received the gospel and are not taking it to the heathen really can be saved at all?”

TRUTH: God is not to blame for there being people in this world who live and die without ever hearing the gospel. The blame can only fall on His Church which He created for the purpose of taking the gospel to those who have never heard.

How will this biblical reality push you to take action?

- How will you GO?
- How will you SEND?
- How will you PRAY?