



- Welcome and Introduction

What about those who have never heard about Christ?

How is it fair of God to hold people accountable for what they don't know?

1. God's great plan has always been to reach the nations.

Genesis 12:1-3—"...All the families on earth will be blessed through you."

Isaiah 49:6—"... you will bring my salvation to the ends of the earth."

Rev. 9:9-10—"...I saw a vast crowd...from every nation...and they were clothed in white robes."

2. Every person is separated from God without Christ.

Romans 3:23—"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God..."

Rev. 20:12-13—"And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life;...and they were judged, each one of them according to their deeds."

Without Christ, all people stand condemned for their sin...not for lack of information.

Example: People died of smallpox even in the 1960s because they didn't know about the vaccine. But the cause of death was smallpox, not "lack of information".

God is not obligated to save anyone. He is holy and just. We stand guilty. It is a wonder that anyone can be saved at all.

3. People are not without knowledge of God.

God doesn't hold people accountable for what they don't know; He holds them accountable for what they **do** know.

They know about God through nature and His goodness.

Romans 1:20—"Through everything God made, they can clearly see His invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse..."

Acts 14:16-18—"...He never left them without evidence of Himself and His goodness..."

Acts 17:25-27—"He Himself gives to all people life and breath and all things...that they would seek God...He is not far from each one of us."

They know about a moral standard and know they fall short.

Romans 2:14-15—"Even Gentiles, who do not have God's written law...demonstrate that God's law is written on their hearts, for their own conscience and thoughts...accuse them..."

C.S. Lewis, in *Mere Christianity*— "First, ...human beings, all over the earth, have this curious idea that they ought to behave in a certain way, and cannot really get rid of it. Secondly, ...they do not in fact behave in that way. They know the law of Nature; they break it. These two facts are the foundation of all clear thinking about ourselves and the universe we live in. ..."

4. People really need to know about Jesus.

Romans 10:9-15—“...For ‘Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.’ But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them? And how will anyone go and tell them without being sent?”

Acts 4:12— “And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

Galatians 2:16— “Yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified.”

Acts 2:38-39— And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.”

—Also, John 3:18 and 1 John 4:15

5. God is not limited in His desire or ability to get the message to people.

Psalms 145:18-19—“The Lord is near to all who call on him,... he hears their cry and saves them.”

Isaiah 45:2—“Turn to Me and be saved, all the ends of the earth...”

1 Timothy 2:1-6a—“...God our Savior, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all people...”

A Thought Experiment...

Do you think it's possible...

That there is someone in Newport Beach that doesn't know about the good news of Jesus?
...that *that* person is crying out right now to God?

Does God hear them? Wants to answer them? And has the ability to get them the Gospel?

Has that ever happened?

Why not anywhere in the world?

6. There is a great body of evidence that God has and does actively reach out and reveal Himself and the news of Jesus Christ.

The story of the Karen people of Burma in the 19th Century.

Conclusion and Encouragement