

What about the Heathen that never heard the Gospel?

Some of the great questions asked by skeptics and believers alike are answered in the book of Romans, such as:

- 1) Why does God allow evil? (Romans 9)
- 2) What about the Jew? (Romans 9-11),
- 3) What about the heathen that never heard the gospel? (Romans 2)

Romans 2:11-16

For there is no respect of persons with God. For as many as have sinned without law shall also perish without law: and as many as have sinned in the law shall be judged by the law; (For not the hearers of the law are just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified. For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves: Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another;) In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel.

2:11

God is not a respecter of persons (Deuteronomy 10:16-22, Acts 10).

- The story of Cornelius demonstrates this. It also demonstrates those that are seeking light get more light. (Isaiah 28:9-13).

2:12

With the law of without the law – sinners perish

Have law = judged by the law

Have no law = not judged by the law; but by the dictates of their conscience (see Romans 2:14-15)

2:13

Just because you hear (“understand”) the law, doesn’t make you just; but if you do the law, you will be justified. See James 1:22-27, Revelation 1:3.

2:14-15

Gentiles tend to line up with the letter of the law in their judgment, even though they don’t have the words of God (Romans 3:1-3). Their conscience bears witness to the law written in their hearts, accusing or excusing.

2:16

God will judge all men’s hearts by Jesus Christ (See Acts 17:22-31).

What is the standard of judgment? Jesus Christ; the word of God (Revelation 20:11-15, Daniel 7:9-10).

Regardless of works, who is saved? Whosoever is written in the book of life.

- Christian’s names are written there (Hebrews 12:22-23, Philippians 4:3).

- First mention of the book of life (Exodus 32:32-33) and then read Revelation 3:5.

So the question is, what happens to those that never heard the gospel of Jesus Christ?

First of all, God is righteous in his judgment (Genesis 18:23-25, Psalm 96:10, Revelation 19:11).

- God will judge man
- He will be righteous in his judgment

What will man do at this judgment?

- Romans 14:11-12, Philippians 2:9-11, Isaiah 45:21-25

1. Confess to God, 2. Bow down, 3. Give account

Bowing, and confesses, and acknowledging he is the living God implies many things such as:

1. He is God and I am not
2. He is greater than I am
3. I am not like him at all
4. Since I am not like him, I know there is a problem

And from this point, what the man does next will condemn or justify him.

If you know God is, and you are not like him, and that you have sinned against him, what would you do?

- You would humble yourself, acknowledge your sin to him, and plead for mercy!!! This is what the Lord is looking for.

Genesis 3

They didn't take responsibility and blamed everyone but themselves and hid themselves: what if they repented and confessed and asked for mercy? What might have happened!

God requires you to do something with the light you have been given (Romans 1:18-32, John 1:1-14, John 3:16-21).

*God has given to all a knowledge of himself; what you do with this knowledge inevitably saves or condemns you.

*Besides the Bible, 1) creation, and 2) conscience testify of his eternal power and Godhead. Man is without excuse.

So what about the heathen that never heard the gospel?

They will be judged by God righteously according to the light they had and how they responded to that light.

Desire and come to the light = get more light

Reject and despise the light = no more light, wrath and judgment.