

# Jeff May - What About the Eternal Destiny of People Who Have Never Heard About Jesus?

Brother May addressed the question of whether people who have never heard the gospel are lost. He focused on four major biblical points to support his perspective on this issue. First, according to Romans 3:23, everyone of accountable age is guilty of sin against God, making them lost due to sin rather than any lack of exposure to the gospel message. Second, no one is saved apart from faith in Jesus and obedience to the gospel. Salvation only comes through believing in and following Christ. Third, God's existence and attributes are evident for all people through creation. He also noted Gentiles had an innate understanding of right and wrong based on Romans 2. Finally, seeking God leads to further knowledge and that individuals must respond to and act upon the light and knowledge they have received based on their understanding of scripture. The Gospel is the solution and sin is the problem..

## Outline

### **Everyone of Accountable Age is Guilty of Sin Against God.**

- Romans 3:23 - "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."
- Children are not born in sin as Jesus said in Matthew 18:3, "unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven."
- The book of Romans is compared to a courtroom where the whole world is on trial for sin, with the gospel being the solution.
- Romans 1-2: Paul argues that all people, both Gentiles and Jews, have sinned against God.
- The judge's verdict is that the whole world becomes guilty before God.
- Romans 3:19 - "Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God."

### **The Gospel is Necessary for Salvation.**

- The gospel is the solution to sin, not the problem.
- John 14:6 - "Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.'"
- Acts 4:12 - "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

### **Everyone Has Received Knowledge of God.**

- God's invisible attributes, like His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen through what has been made since the creation of the world. Creation declares the Creator.

- Romans 1:19-20 - "because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen..."
- Even those without a written law, like Gentiles, intuitively comprehend right and wrong according to their conscience, as outlined in Romans 2:14-15. God has put a sense of morality within.
- Acts 14:17 notes that God gives rain and fruitful seasons as evidence of His providential care, revealing Himself through sustaining His creation.
- The intricate design and order in the world point to an intelligent Designer more powerful than humanity. It is illogical and foolish to deny God given the testimony of creation, as Romans 1 indicates.
- God holds Gentile nations responsible for what they know of God's will and how to live, despite not having the law of Moses.

### **Anyone Earnestly Seeking God Will Be Given Further Revelation.**

- It is a sin to remain willfully ignorant of God according to Romans 1:28. People cannot dismiss or ignore the revelation they have been given.
- Hebrews 11:6 says that God exists and is a rewarder of those who earnestly seek Him. Seeking leads to finding more truth about God.
- Romans 1:28 - "Even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge..."
- Willful ignorance of God is a sin, and seeking knowledge of God leads to more knowledge.
- In Acts 8, God sent Philip to share the gospel with the Ethiopian eunuch who was studying Scripture, showing His willingness to guide sincere seekers.
- Saul was earnestly pursuing righteousness on the road to Damascus when Jesus appeared to him in Acts 9.
- On Mars Hill in Acts 17, Paul urged the Athenians to properly reason that God, as the source of life, must be greater than idols of gold or stone based on what they already knew of divinity from nature.