

HEATHENISM

1. Question: What about the people of the earth who have never heard the gospel?
 - A. This is a direct challenge to the fairness of God by those who wish to avoid the gospel.
 - B. When someone does not want to respond to the gospel then they usually ask this question. It is a maneuver to take the responsibility off them and put it on God.
 - C. Therefore Christians need to understand the fairness of God, Justice, and how it operates in regard to the heathen.

2. Who are the heathen? The answer is that all the areas of the world have been evangelized many times over, as they reached the point of God-consciousness and went positive to the fact that God exists.
 - A. History bears out that many times believers were transferred from one location to another to give the gospel. The Nestorians of China were not natives of China. They moved into China in the 6th century AD. They were a split off from the Western Church in 483 AD and their headquarters was in Persia.
 - B. A group of missionaries, Nestorians, went to China in 635. The Tang Dynasty was ruling and they translated the Scriptures into Chinese and China was evangelized by these Nestorians. There exist today in China a Nestorian monument that dates back to 781 BC in Sian-fu.
 - C. Egypt was evangelized by the Jews by the ten plagues in 1440 BC.
 - D. Christianity spread all through the Roman Empire for the letters of Pliny to Trajan express this.
 - E. India was evangelized by Matthew.
 - F. Each apostle went to a different area and evangelized:
 - 1) Peter in Palestine.
 - 2) Andrew in Achaia (Greece).
 - 3) John in Ephesus and Patmos.
 - 4) Philip in Syria.

- 5) Bartholomew in Arabia, Armenia, and India.
 - 6) Thomas in Persia.
 - 7) Judas, the brother of James, in Macedonia (Greece)
 - 9) Paul, traveled the length and breadth of the Roman Empire all the way to Spain.
- G. These peoples carried the messages home with them, and even to foreign lands as they discovered new lands to travel to, South America, North America, Africa, etc.
- H. The principle is Acts 2, where 16 nations were represented as hearing the gospel. They took it home with them and it spread from there.
- I. So a person cannot conclude there is no area of the globe that has not been exposed to the gospel. If they do, it only shows their historical ignorance.
3. Furthermore, the Bible has clarified the issue. Acts 17:6; Colossians 1:6; 1 Timothy 3:16, the gospel has covered the entire inhabited world.
 4. God's Essence is perfectly and totally aware of all human needs.
 - A. God is Righteous and can only perform that which is right.
 - B. God is Justice and can only be fair to all humans.
 - C. Therefore, based on God's Righteousness and Justice all members of the human race who desire to have a personal relationship with Christ will be exposed to the good news of grace. Acts 8:26-39, the Ethiopian eunuch (African) desired the gospel and God provided an evangelist.
 5. The application of unlimited atonement, 1 John 2:2, "And He, (Christ) is a propitiation, (satisfied God's Righteousness and Justice) "for our sins (believers) "and not for ours only, but also for the whole world.""
 - A. When the Lord Jesus Christ went to the cross He solved the area of personal sins. He gave us the ability to have power over the old sin nature through the Holy Spirit. We do not have to cater to personal sin, human good and evil.
 - B. Point of Logic: If Christ died for all the sins of the world, and He did, then it makes sense that He will give the whole world an opportunity to believe in Him.

- C. 2 Corinthians 5:14-15, 19; 2 Timothy 2:6, 4:10; Titus 2:11; Hebrews 2:9; 2 Peter 2:1; 1 John 2:3.
- D. God offers the opportunity to all men; He does not force the issue and make or coerce men to be saved. Each person is responsible for making his own decision.

6. Application of God's Sovereignty.

- A. It is God's will that all men be saved, 2 Peter 3:9. However, not all men desire to be saved due to arrogance, pride, thinking they are "okay," or a "nice guy". They are self-sufficient and want to do it their own way, or "religious."

7. Application of God-consciousness:

- A. Human freewill is tested in two areas: God-consciousness and gospel hearing.
- B. God-consciousness is man becoming aware of God. He begins to think about a Supreme Being, a person, etc.
- C. Gospel hearing: man receives gospel information and makes a decision.

PRINCIPLE: When any member of the human race reaches God-consciousness and goes positive, then God will provide someone to give that person the gospel.

- D. Jeremiah 23:24; Proverbs 15:2; John 7:17; Acts 17:27 all show that God is near to all mankind and knows what they want and when they want it.
- E. Jeremiah 23:23-24, Proverbs 15:3; John 7:17; Acts 17:27 all show that God is near to all mankind and knows what they want and when they want it.

8. The issue of God-consciousness is found in Romans 2:20-21.

- A. Man has the ability to arrive at the point of God-consciousness through the use of his own mentality. This is called ACCOUNTABILITY.
- B. The AGE OF ACCOUNTABILITY is the physical age the person is when

he begins to ask questions about God. It will differ with different cultures. Some arrive at 3 years old, some at 14 years depending on the culture.

- C. If babies die before reaching the age of accountability they automatically go to heaven, 2 Samuel 12:23.
- D. The mentally impaired people who do not have the ability to become accountable are also taken to heaven at death. It is a no-contest situation. It is better to be born mentally impaired and go to heaven for eternity than to be born with high intellect and go to hell for eternity due to unbelief in the Savior.

9. Ways a person arrives at God-consciousness:

- A. Religious or Spiritual way, Psalm 41:1-2: Men have a soul and they thirst after God. God must exist because men universally believe in Him. Animals do not believe in God, they have no mentality or soul to do so.
- B. Anthropological way: Moral system. Man has freewill and a conscience. His mentality, freewill and conscience develop the urge to recognize a higher being than himself, so he can worship Him.
- C. Ontological way: The human mind holds onto the idea that a perfect and absolute being exists. Men hold onto the idea of gods, super creatures from which they can learn. This is designed to bring man to the One Real God. The human mind has the tendency to desire the existence of God. Man has to destroy that desire by substituting false gods and concepts in his mind. (ONTO means to be in a state of awareness of self and existence of nature.)
- D. Teleological Way: TELEOS means “end,” “completeness.” This stand takes rational evidence and establishes the purpose of God through His design, function and consummation of all things. Psalm 94:9-10. The fact that everything has a design shows the purpose of God. Chance never imitates design perfectly. Design shows a creative mind and hand behind it. Romans 1:20, the structure of the universe demands a Designer.
- E. Cosmological Way: The law of cause and effect. Colossians 1:16-17. God is the First Cause of all things. Matter is a created thing that came from nothing but the power of God. Genesis 1:1, Hebrews 11:3. God begins all things for nature cannot produce itself.

10. Heathen are people who have heard the gospel and rejected it.

- A. Heathen are not the people who have not heard the gospel.
Romans 1:18-32.

11. Heathenism is related to liberalism, humanism, evolution and socialism.

- A. When a person is negative to the gospel they become antagonistic towards what the Word of God says. This causes scar tissue and reversionism in their souls.
- B. Into the vacuum created by scar tissue of the soul comes liberalism as a cosmic system of thought.
- C. Romans 1:24-25 describes how a liberal develops.
- D. The logical liberals are religious leaders who deny the Deity of Christ, salvation by faith alone, Trinity, and the Bible as God's Word.
- E. Political liberals are those in politics who appeal to internationalism as God's way. They sell our country down the drain in order to promote their confused, arrogant thinking; the United Nations crowd.
- F. A liberal is someone who has rejected God, and tries to play God.
- G. They are trying to set up a new world order through human methods. They promote socialism, communism, enlightenment and all of these are expressions of HEATHENISM.

12. Heathenism rejects the truth of the gospel.

- A. If you begin without truth then you end up without truth.
- B. Truth of doctrine is designed to set us free from liberal heathenistic thinking, John 8:31-32.
- C. Inevitably heathen liberalism must find a substitute for the truth of the gospel it has rejected, Romans 1:22-24.
- D. Heathenism always tries to establish a society without God. It emphasizes evolution of man, solving man's problems by man's efforts, brotherhood of mankind, dignity of mankind, and internationalism.