

The Heathen—Does Everyone in the World in Some Manner Hear of God?

What about the professed atheist? In proving guilt of the world, God's will (as revealed in the law and the prophets of the Bible) is brought to bear against the pagan, through the witness of heart and creation. The Bible declares that the hearts of men really speak of God, and creation testifies of God. "For that which may be know of God is manifest in them; for God hath shown it unto them" (Rom 1:18, 19). "The invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen . . . understood . . . even His eternal power and Godhead; so they are without excuse" (see Romans 1:20). This truth is developed also in Psalm 19.

Against the moralist, the witness of conscience (Rom 2:15) is directed (see Acts 24:25 as an example), and against the Jew (Rom 2:17-21), the witness of Scripture. The Scripture speaks to men today (Rom 3:23; Jn 3:16; Eph 2:8, 9; 2 Tim 3:15; Rom 1:16)

The correct translation of Ecclesiastes 3:11 tells us that God has set awareness of eternity in man's heart. Prayer under stress, in foxholes, etc. confirms the point. This truth is confirmed also by the fact that man universally has a concept of life in another world. Such a life is required to give any meaning and value to this life on this earth. If a man died like a beast, with no future life, there would be no reason to aspire to moral or spiritual values on earth.

Jesus Christ is the *Living Word*, who was declared amongst us (Jn 1:1, 2, 14). Salvation is by the Word of God (1 Pt 1:23). and "Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God" (Rom 10:17). "Without faith it is impossible to please Him (be right with Him); for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him" (see Hebrews 11:6). Whosoever responds to the light received, and shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved (Rom 10:13). In past ages, salvation also was through believing faith (see Hebrews 11:4, 7 and Romans 4:3, 6-8).