GOOD NEWS

for the unsaved WORLD!

(#19)

Because we have sinned, even knowing the "basics" about God cannot save us. We need Jesus.

Proclaiming the GOOD NEWS in the Book of Acts

- If the APOSTLES didn't understand the GOOD NEWS, *then NONE of us do!*
- If OUR "good news" doesn't agree with theirs, *then WE are in the wrong!*

"GROUP 1": People who had little or no understanding about God and the Bible.

- **They needed to learn foundational issues *before* hearing about Jesus and salvation.**

[Otherwise, they would not correctly understand Jesus and salvation.]

EXAMPLE

The God who made the universe and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth. He doesn't live in shrines made by humans, and he isn't served by humans as if he needed anything. He gives everyone life, breath, and everything they have. [Etc.]

Acts 17:24-25 (GW)

"GROUP 2": People who knew about the true God and the Bible.

- **They needed to learn about Jesus and Salvation.**

EXAMPLES

In Iconium, Paul and Barnabas went together to the synagogue* and preached with such power that a great number of both Jews and Gentiles believed.

Acts 14:1 (NLT)

... Paul ... testifying to the Jews that Jesus was the Christ.

Acts 18:5b (NIV)

* (At the Jewish *synagogue*, they would have been familiar with the Old Testament.)

In a few instances, people had a *partial* understanding about the true God, the Bible, John the Baptizer, Jesus.

- **They just needed to learn the parts of the Good News they had not heard.**

EXAMPLE

... a Jew named Apollos ... knew the Scriptures well ... had been taught the way of the Lord and talked to others with great enthusiasm and accuracy about Jesus. However, he knew only about John's baptism.

... Priscilla and Aquila ... took him aside and explained the way of God more accurately.

Acts 18:24-26 (NLT)

(QUICK PARENTHESIS)

The "GROUP 1" People (= Those with little or no understanding about God and the Bible.)

WHAT DO THEY NEED TO KNOW?

(Summary, based on Acts 14 and 17.)

☞ There are **CERTAIN FOUNDATIONAL FACTS** that people *must** know.

ABOUT:

- ✓ GOD
- ✓ PEOPLE
- ✓ JUDGMENT

* (in order to have a *genuine* salvation.)

☛ **THIS DOESN'T MEAN** they'll know *everything* about these issues.

BUT THEY WILL HAVE (at least):

- ✓ A **"beginning" understanding** of these concepts.
- ✓ An **attitude of humility** toward God.
- ✓ A **teachable spirit** – willing to receive the truth of Scripture.

☛ **WARNING:** Many church-goers fail in this matter. Even if they *claim* to believe these facts, they deny them by how they live.

#1 – Facts pertaining to GOD

- ✓ There is only **ONE TRUE GOD**, who is over all other gods. This God reveals himself in the Bible.
- ✓ This God is the **MAKER** of all, and **RULER** over all.
- ✓ He **CANNOT BE REPRESENTED** by created things, or by objects that humans make.
- ✓ He has **NO NEEDS** that *we* must fulfil by our religious activities.

#2 – Facts pertaining to PEOPLE

- ✓ We were **MADE BY GOD**; we are *not* gods.
- ✓ We are **TOTALLY DEPENDENT** on God for our existence and daily living.
- ✓ We **ABANDONED** the true God and have gone our own ways.
- ✓ Even so, we are **SURROUNDED** by displays of God's glory and by his kindness toward us – testimonies of his presence.

#3 – Facts pertaining to JUDGMENT

- ✓ The day of **JUDGMENT IS COMING**. God has guaranteed it will come, by raising Jesus (the Judge) from the dead.
- ✓ God commands us to **GET READY** for this judgment. We are to turn from our false gods and repent of our sinful ways.
- ✓ This *opportunity* to get ready is **UNDESERVED** – something that people in the past did *not* have. So don't throw it away!

AT THIS POINT …

Once the "GROUP 1" people know the FOUNDATION, they become like the "GROUP 2" people – ready to receive the GOOD NEWS that *everyone* needs.

WHO?	FOUNDATION	GOOD NEWS
"GROUP 1" PEOPLE (*NOT* EXPOSED TO THE BIBLE)	*WAS* NEEDED… NOW HAVE	STILL NEEDED
"GROUP 2" PEOPLE (FAMILIAR WITH THE BIBLE)	*ALREADY* HAD	STILL NEEDED

QUESTION:

CAN PEOPLE WITH NO KNOWLEDGE OF THE BIBLE BE SAVED?

In the book of Acts, we learn that:

- ✓ Something about God *can be known* from creation.
- ✓ God shows kindness to people in many ways.
- ✓ *If people were willing, they could find him.*

But the problem is this:

PEOPLE DON'T WANT TO FIND HIM.

… there is **no one who seeks** God.
Romans 3:11b (CSB)

☛ But let's suppose (theoretically) that people *did* pay attention to **WHAT CREATION TEACHES**…

- **WOULD THAT BE ENOUGH TO SAVE THEM?** **NO!!**

☛ What if they learned the **FOUNDATIONAL FACTS** about God, Creation, People, Judgment…

- **WOULD THAT BE ENOUGH TO SAVE THEM?** **NO!!**

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

EVEN IF PEOPLE:

✓ Paid attention to God's revelation in creation
✓ Accepted what the Bible says about God
✓ Chose to accept the God of the Bible as the *only* God …

ONE thing would *still* stand between them and salvation: *SIN*.

The whole world is brought under the judgment of God.

… Because **all people** have sinned, they have fallen short of God's glory.

Romans 3:19b, 23 (GW)

☛ EVEN IF people *never* sinned again*… their *past* sins are enough to condemn them for *eternity*.

All who sin apart from the law will also perish apart from the law, and all who sin under the law will be judged by the law.

Romans 2:12 (NIV)

We have earned WAGES; and we *must* receive our pay.

For the wages of sin is *death* …

Romans 6:23a (NASB)

* (This is quite unlikely… they'd have to be *dead*, to never sin again!)

HOW can God judge people who have never been exposed to the Bible?

✓ Their judgment will be based *only* on what they know – the truth they have *suppressed*. (Rom. 1:18+)

THOSE WITHOUT THE BIBLE *DO* KNOW SOMETHING

… they are a law to themselves even though they do not have the law. They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts. Their consciences confirm this.

Romans 2:14b-15a (CSB)

THEY CHOOSE TO DO THINGS THEY *KNOW* ARE WRONG

Although they know … that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them.

Romans 1:32 (NIV)

(QUICK PARENTHESIS)

☛ As sinners, all we can look forward to is death and judgment.

THIS IS WHY WE NEED

THE GOOD NEWS.

THIS IS THE GOOD NEWS!

☛ **JESUS has offered to**

- ✓ **Take the punishment for our sin, and**
- ✓ **Enable us to live a life that pleases God.**

… the *free gift* of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 6:23b (NASB)

THIS IS THE GOOD NEWS!

For the wages of sin is **death**, ...
Romans 6:23a (NASB)

WHAT WE EARNED:
☛ **Taken by JESUS: He *died*.**

... but the *free gift* of God is **eternal life** in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Romans 6:23b (NASB)

WHAT WE'RE OFFERED:
☛ **Given by JESUS: We *live*.***

* (Made possible because Jesus came back to life.)

What about saved people in the OLD TESTAMENT?

(They did not know what we know about Jesus.)

- ✓ **They trusted God** to deal with their sin and to enable them to live a holy life.
- ✓ **They didn't fully understand** that the New Testament Good News would *expand* the offer of salvation to the non-Jews.

TODAY: [God] commands **all people everywhere** to repent.
Acts 17:30b (NIV)

(At the present time, more *non*-Jews are being saved. But someday, the Jews – as a nation – will repent. See Romans 11.)

(QUICK PARENTHESIS)

YOUR OPPORTUNITY

REVIEW, as necessary, the **FOUNDATIONAL ISSUES**. We must understand the foundation, if we want to accurately understand the GOOD NEWS.
= Things related to God, people and judgment.

PREPARE for our coming focus on the **GOOD NEWS** – the things we must know and do, in order to be saved.
= Things related to Jesus and salvation.

Credits

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