

The Doctrine of Heathenism

1. The wishful thinking of some that men would repent if they only knew the power and righteous judgment of God is shattered Rev 16:10, 11 and 21.

Rev 16:10 The fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and his kingdom was plunged into darkness. Men gnawed their tongues in agony

Rev 16:11 and cursed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, but they refused to repent of what they had done.

Rev 16:21 From the sky huge hailstones of about a hundred pounds each fell upon men. And they cursed God on account of the plague of hail, because the plague was so terrible.

2. There are no heathen in the world, i.e., there are none who have not heard the gospel.

2.1 The Bible tells us all people hear the gospel.

Tit 2:11 For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,

Joh 1:9 That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.

Psa 98:2 The LORD hath made known his salvation: his righteousness hath he openly shewed in the sight of the heathen.

3. Historical evidence indicates the gospel was uniquely communicated to all who want to hear.

3.1 In the 1st century and 2nd century A.D. we have evidence of missionary activity in such places as Absasemia in Africa, in Pontus and in Persia.



3.2 In A.D. 190 there are records of many accepting Christ in Alexandria, Egypt.

3.3 In the 2nd century there are many evidences of Scripture existing in India.

3.4 In the 6th century there is evidence that there were 3,000,000 believers in the Shintsi province of China.

3.5 Since God has Righteousness as one of His essences He cannot be unfair and let people go to hell because they do not get the Word.

3.6 His righteousness demands that He get the Word of truth to those who want it.

3.7 Man has the ability to arrive at God consciousness through his own ability and if positive at God consciousness it is up to God to get the gospel to him.

Rom 1:20 For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

Rom 1:21 Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

3.8 Common rationales for God consciousness are:

3.8.1 Religious approach- God must exist because so many people believe in Him.

3.8.2 Moral approach- man's conscience demands him toward virtue and truth because the order of the universe demands establishment.

3.8.3 Ontological approach- the human mind demands a perfect deity as an ideal. Ontology is the science that deals with being.

3.8.4 Teleological approach- there is too much order in the universe therefore there must have been a designer of supra-proportion. Teleology is the science that all things which exist were produced for the end purpose for which they fulfill.

3.8.5 Cosmological approach - the logic of cause and effect demands the existence of God.

4. Historical quotations from early Greek writers:

Justin Martyr, A.D. 103-165, "there is no people among whom prayers are not offered to the Father in the name of Jesus."

Tertullian, A.D. 160-240 "we Christians fill your Roman temples, your senate, your forums and have left only your empty places of idol worship."

Origen, A.D. 160-240 "in all races there are tens of thousands who have left their idols to embrace Jesus."

Eusebius, A.D. 240 "the whole earth has a host of disciples who carry the gospel to all who have not heard the word of faith in Jesus."

5. We have heathen in the world because of negative volition - bad choices.

Rom 1:18 The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness,

Rom 1:19 since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them.

Rom 1:20 For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities -- his eternal power and divine nature -- have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.

Rom 1:21 For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.

Rom 1:22 Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools

Rom 1:23 and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles.

Rom 1:24 Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another.

Rom 1:25 They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator -- who is forever praised. Amen.

Rom 1:26 Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones.

Rom 1:27 In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion.

Rom 1:28 Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done.

Rom 1:29 They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips,

Rom 1:30 slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents;

Rom 1:31 they are senseless, faithless, heartless, ruthless.

Rom 1:32 Although they know God's righteous decree 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.

Rom 2:1 You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge the other, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things.

