

## HEATHENISM

**Request:** What happens to the people who live in the remote parts of the earth who die having never heard the gospel?

**The answer** to this question is the doctrine of Heathenism. The doctrine of Heathenism works from the premise that there are no remote parts of the earth to the omnipresence and sovereignty of God.

*“Am I a God who is near, declares the Lord, and not a God far off? Can a man hide himself in hiding places, so I do not see him? declares the Lord. Do I not fill the heavens and the earth?” (Jer.23:23-24)*

**This lesson will study EIGHT aspects of Heathenism as decreed in the plan of God.**

- 1. The plan of God decrees that every members of human race (HR) receives God-consciousness (GC) because he is made in the image and likeness of God (Gen.1:26; Acts 17:24-29; 1 Cor.8:6).**

“But in every nation the man who fears (reverences) Him and does what is right, is welcome to Him.”  
(Acts 10:35/ Roman gentile Cornelius and Jewish Christian Peter)

God Consciousness (GC) in itself does not constitute salvation (James 2:19). Believing in the existence of God does constitute GC.

- 2. The plan of God decrees that everyone with positive volition (PV) at GC receives gospel hearing (GH) (Acts 10:35-43; 1 Tim.3:16).**

This principle can be illustrated by the next four verses. *Write the names of the people on the first line and the places on the second line.*

Gal.3:8 \_\_\_\_\_  
Matt.1:5 \_\_\_\_\_  
2 Pet.2:5 \_\_\_\_\_  
Jonah 4:2,11 \_\_\_\_\_

- 3. The plan of God decrees that God is desirous that all members of the HR be saved (2 Pet.3:9; Rom.5:8; John 3:16; Acts 17:27).**

All members of the HR are born spiritual dead and in need of grace salvation (Rom.5:12-21; 8:1).

- 4. The plan of God decrees that Jesus Christ redeem all members of the HR on the same basis – faith in the gospel of Jesus Christ (Rom.1:16; Eph.2:8-9; 1 Tim.1:15; Titus 2:11-14; 1 John 2:2; 4:9-10).**

Hearing the gospel does not constitute grace salvation but it does constitute gospel hearing.

- 5. The plan of God decrees that every member of the HR who rejects the gospel of Jesus Christ enters into personal heathenism (2 Thess.1:8-9; 2:10-14; 2 Cor.6:14-18).**

Hearing and believing the gospel of Jesus Christ constitute grace salvation (Rom.1:16; Eph.2:8-9).

- 6. The plan of God decrees that every member of the HR who rejects God at GC enters into personal heathenism (Rom.1:18-32; Ps.10:4; 42:1-2; Eph.2:12).**

Personal heathenism can be defined as anyone who rejects the divine revealed truth regarding God-consciousness or gospel of hearing.

*“Dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of Jesus Christ.” (2 Thess.1:8)*

- 7. The plan of God decrees that at the point of personal heathenism, God is no longer responsible to provide additional divine enlightenment (Rom.1:24, 26, 28; 2 Pet.2:4-9; John 9:31).**

“And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do the things which are not proper.” (Rom.1:28)

“Then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from temptation, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment for the Day of Judgment.” (2 Pet.2:9)

- 8. The plan of God decrees that church age believers be the ambassadors of divine enlightenment of GC and GH to the world (2 Cor.5:18-20; 2 Tim.4:5; 1 Tim.3:16; Acts 1:8; 10:34-43).**

God will either bring the person with PV at GC to GH or will bring GH to the person with PV at GC (Acts 8:26-39; 10:44-52).

How could we know if every generation has been responsibly evangelized? (Col.1:5-6; Acts 14:16-17) **YOU!**