

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE:	No Other Way to Heaven Except Through Jesus
SERMON REFERENCE:	Romans 1:16-22
LWF SERMON NUMBER:	#1965

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) There is a question that has troubled many sincere believers and has been used as an excuse for unbelievers to keep them from coming to the Lord Jesus Christ:
 - i) Is God a righteous and just God, is God fair, to let a person die and go to Hell who has never heard the name of Jesus?
- b) Others may also ask, "Can these who have never heard of Jesus and don't know about Jesus go to Heaven some other way?"
- c) In response to these two questions, we need to understand two specific things:
 - i) God is righteous, and God is just.
 - ii) There is no other way to Heaven apart from Jesus Christ.
- d) We should not get the sentimental idea that all the world religions are somehow connected.
 - i) John 14:6
- e) If someone could go to Heaven some other way:
 - i) Then that would make Jesus a liar.
 - ii) It would also mean that Jesus is not our Savior.
 - (1) A liar is nobody's Savior.
- f) Acts 4:12
 - i) If Jesus Christ is not the only way, then He is none of the ways.
- g) Can a righteous, good, loving and holy God let someone die and go to Hell who never once heard the name of Jesus?
 - i) The Apostle Paul addresses this question in Romans 1.
 - (1) Romans 1:16-20
 - ii) Today's message will present four factors to help us answer this question as we look at these Scriptures in the book of Romans.

2) THE REVELATION FACTOR: ALL MEN HAVE SOME LIGHT (ROMANS 1:19-20)

- a) No one is innocent by reason of ignorance.
- b) The Apostle Paul brings forth two witnesses that testify against those who say that they never knew or never heard.
 - i) Creation is the outward, objective witness.
 - (1) Romans 1:19-20
 - (2) Creation is a witness that God exists.
 - (3) Creation testifies to the fact of God.
 - (a) Psalm 19:1
 - (4) If there is a creation, then there must be a Creator.
 - (a) The Bible says that the Creator is clearly seen by the things that are made.
 - (b) When we see order and system, there must be intelligence.
 - (i) Psalm 14:1
 - ii) Conscience is the inward, subjective witness.
 - (1) Romans 1:19-20

- (a) “Unto them” is creation; “in them” is conscience.
 - (2) Romans 2:14-15
 - (a) Another word for “Gentiles” is “pagans;” those who have never heard the Gospel.
 - (3) There is a built-in knowledge of God.
 - (a) God made man to serve Him and to know Him.
 - (i) Until he does, man is like a round peg in a square hole.
 - (4) Atheists are not atheists because of intellectual problems but because of moral problems.
 - (a) There are brilliant people who are atheists and brilliant people who are Christians.
 - (b) There are some foolish people who believe in God, but everyone who doesn’t believe is foolish.
 - (i) Romans 1:22
 - (c) We all have a God-consciousness.
 - (i) It is not a matter of intellectualism but a matter of morality.
 - 1. Psalm 14:1
 - (d) An atheist is someone who has the idea of God, and it makes him uncomfortable.
 - (i) The more he tries to get rid of the idea of God, the more subconsciously he knows that God exists because down in his heart is that conscience.
 - c) John 1:9
 - i) All men have some light.
 - d) Creation and conscience testify that everyone has some light; not all light, but some light.
- 3) THE REFUSAL FACTOR: LIGHT REFUSED INCREASES DARKNESS (ROMANS 1:21)
- a) All men have some light, but light refused increases darkness.
 - i) You cannot simply take light or truth and put it on ice.
 - ii) When God gives someone light (when creation and conscience speak to the heart of any individual), that person does not remain static if he does not glorify God or believe in God or trust God.
 - (1) Instead, that person begins to regress.
 - (2) He loses even the light that he has.
 - (3) His foolish heart will be darkened.
 - b) In the Bible, the opposite of truth is not error but sin.
 - i) The error is the baggage that comes with sin.
 - ii) This is not to say that a person does not have error if he refuses the truth, but he refuses the truth because of the sin that is in his heart.
 - c) Romans 1:18
 - i) The word “hold” in this passage literally means “who resist the truth,” “who smother the truth,” “who hold back the truth.”
 - (1) They hold back the truth not in error, but in unrighteousness.

- (a) The person who does not believe in God does so because to believe in God means that he has to adjust his lifestyle.
 - (i) On the one hand is his lifestyle, which is his unrighteousness.
 - (ii) On the other hand is creation and conscience, which tell him there's a God.
 - (iii) If he turns toward belief in God, then he turns away from his lifestyle.
 - (iv) If he turns toward his lifestyle, then he turns away from belief in God.
 - (v) When he resists the truth and turns toward his lifestyle, he then gets further from the truth and goes away into the darkness.
 - 1. His foolish heart is darkened.
 - 2. The unbelief is the baggage that comes with his sin.
- d) 2 Thessalonians 2:9-12
 - i) This passage speaks of the antichrist who is coming.
 - ii) Those who had the truth and heard the truth but believed not the truth then turned from the truth.
 - (1) They had pleasure in their sin.
 - (2) With that sin, the baggage is delusion, a lie and damnation.
- e) Mark 4:25
- f) Romans 1:22
 - i) Those who are in darkness really think that they are in the light.
 - ii) They are the ones who think that believers are the fools.
- 4) THE RECEPTION FACTOR: LIGHT OBEYED INCREASES LIGHT (ROMANS 1:16-17)
 - a) Creation and conscience only bring us to the fact of God.
 - i) If a person is not interested in the fact of God, then he's certainly not interested in the way to God.
 - ii) God is under no obligation to show anyone the way to God who's not even interested in the fact of God.
 - b) Romans 1:16-17
 - i) God is righteous, and His righteousness is revealed from faith to faith.
 - (1) This is the revelation factor.
 - (a) God gives you truth, you believe that truth, and then God gives you more truth.
 - (i) Mark 4:25
 - (ii) The more you obey light, the more light you get.
 - ii) God speaks to a person through creation and conscience, and that person wants to know God and believes that God exists.
 - (1) This is faith.
 - (2) This person then goes from faith to faith.
 - (a) God gives more light, and this person believes that.
 - (b) This person keeps stepping in the light until he comes to the Lord Jesus Christ.

- (i) When a person is ready to receive the Gospel, God will get the Gospel to that person even if He has to wreck an airplane and parachute a missionary in.
- c) No one has ever died without some opportunity, had they lived up to the opportunity that God gave them, to receive Christ.
 - i) While not all men have enough light to save them, all men have enough light to condemn them.
 - ii) Had they lived up to the light that they had, they would have received more light.
 - (1) Romans 1:17
- d) Acts 8:26-38
 - i) The Ethiopian eunuch had traveled all the way to Jerusalem, the most religious city on Earth, from Ethiopia in Northern Africa by chariot.
 - ii) He was seeking God, but the wells of religion were dry in Jerusalem.
 - iii) On his way back home, he was reading the prophet Isaiah and trying to understand it.
 - (1) He was trying to live up to the light that he had.
 - iv) God goes to Samaria and gets a preacher named Philip, who is in the middle of a big revival.
 - v) God sends Philip to the Ethiopian to tell him how to be saved.
- e) Acts 10
 - i) Cornelius was an army officer who had a hunger to know God.
 - ii) God gave Cornelius a vision, and then He told Simon Peter to go to Cornelius and tell him and his household how to be saved.
 - (1) When we obey the light that we have, God will give us more light.
- f) The reason some of us do not understand the Bible any more than we do is because we have not been living up to the light that God has already given us.
 - i) Why should God show us more in His Word until we obey what we already know?
 - (1) Mark 4:25
 - ii) If you want to understand the part of the Bible you don't understand, then begin to obey the part you do understand; and you'll understand what you didn't understand.
- g) Obey what God teaches you.
 - i) The problem is not in the head (intellectual).
 - ii) The problem is in the heart.
- h) John 7:16-17
 - i) The Pharisees were testing Jesus and taunting Him.
 - ii) Throughout this challenge, Jesus gave one of the greatest promises in the Bible:
 - (1) If we will to do the will of God, then we'll know Jesus is.
- i) John 3:19
- j) When a person surrenders his will, God will speak to him.
 - i) Live up to the light that you have, and God will give you more light.

- 5) THE RECKONING FACTOR: GOD WILL JUDGE US BY THE LIGHT WE'VE REJECTED (ROMANS 2:5, 11-12)
- a) When God judges us, He is not going to judge us by the sin we've committed but by the light we've rejected.
 - b) Romans 2:5
 - c) Romans 2:11-12
 - i) God knows how much light we have.
 - d) Some of us have far more light than other people; not because we necessarily sought it, but simply because we live where there's a church on every street corner.
 - i) It's simply by the providence of God that we have more light than others.
 - e) God will hold us accountable more so than the person who has never heard.
 - i) Luke 12:48
 - f) It will be bad enough for the person who lives in the most remote part of the world to die and go to Hell, having never heard the name of Jesus and having refused to live up to the light that they had.
 - i) How much more so for the person who sat in a comfortable church building listening to a preacher share the Word of God and beg people to be saved.
 - g) The burning question is not what is God going to do with those who have never heard, but what is God going to do with those who have heard the Gospel of Jesus and said no to the Lord Jesus.
 - h) Matthew 10:14
 - i) The dust off the shoes of those bearing the Gospel will be used as a testimony in the judgment against the ones who refuse Jesus.
 - (1) Luke 12:48
 - i) Matthew 11:23
 - i) Jesus said to Capernaum that it would be better for Sodom and Gomorrah in the judgment than it would be for that city where He preached and taught, where they turned their backs on Him and never received Him.
- 6) CONCLUSION
- a) All people have some light.
 - b) Light refused increases darkness.
 - c) Light obeyed increases light.
 - d) People are judged according to the light that they have.
 - e) Romans 1:16
 - f) If you believe in Jesus Christ today, He will save you.
 - g) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
 - h) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
 - i) Romans 3:23

- ii) Romans 10:9-10
- iii) Romans 10:13
- iv) Acts 16:31
- v) John 3:16