

**Wrath**  
Romans 1:16-32

A man was *driving on a highway at night in L.A.*, rapidly approaching a familiar bridge. It was three in the morning. Suddenly the tail lights of the car in front of him just disappeared. In a horrifying moment the man realized *the bridge had collapsed!*

He pulled his car over and from the side of the road started *trying to flag the cars down* coming behind him. As you can imagine, impatient L.A. drivers honked at the lunatic by the road and some even rolled down their windows to yell at him to “get out of the way, you idiot!” I mean - would you stop at 3 a.m. if some guy was waving his arms on the side of the road outside of L.A.?

Then the man saw a bus coming and decided *he was not going to let that bus go over the edge*. So he ran out in the middle of the road, waving his arms and even waving his jacket into the oncoming headlights. The bus driver honked and flashed his lights but finally stopped. Then, of course, the bus driver saw what was going on and turned the bus sideways to prevent others from driving off the collapsed bridge.

Now, I think this story is true. If it's not, take it up with JD Greear - that's who I stole it from. The point of the story is absolutely true: **when you know something other people don't know you are obligated to TELL THEM, especially if it's a matter of life and death.**

Would anyone in that situation do anything different? You see the bridge has collapsed. You see cars driving off the edge. You are right there in position to stop other cars. You don't have to be a heroic firefighter to get out in the street and wave your arms like a lunatic - you just have to DO IT. Get out there and let people know there is a serious danger ahead of them!

Brothers and sisters, we who know the gospel are in precisely this situation relative to those who do not know the gospel. **They are racing to the cliff called DEATH** and all who plunge over that cliff will crash directly into the eternal suffering called HELL. So the real situation is actually way more serious than the story. You may not feel like a gifted evangelist any more than you would feel like a strong firefighter or certified traffic cop - but you know the truth and therefore you are obligated to share that truth with those who do not know it.

***Will some people yell at you and get annoyed?*** Of course. They don't understand what's going on. Does that matter in the grand scheme of things? Not at all. Our job is to wave our arms, shout and scream - everything we possibly can - to let people know the dangers ahead of them. On that bridge you wouldn't be thinking about your own personal embarrassment. You'd be thinking about the human souls in the vehicles approaching their imminent death.

As we study Romans 1 we will be thinking about the human souls around us and especially those all over the world **who have NEVER heard the gospel** - and their approaching imminent SPIRITUAL death.

We have been learning Romans 1:16 as our verse of the month. Say it with me again:

**“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes.” Romans 1:16**

The message we proclaim has divine power to demolish the strongholds of the devil, to open blind eyes and change hearts and lives FOREVER. It IS the power of God that saves and transforms people. Look at the next verse:

### **The Gospel Reveals God’s Justice**

**“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes... For in it *the righteousness of God is revealed.*” Romans 1:16-17**

***The gospel reveals the righteousness of God.*** It shows us the fullness of God’s justice - the “right-ness” of His character. What God does is RIGHT and good and just - because God is the essence of all righteousness, goodness and justice. Paul comes back to this in Romans 3:

<b><u>The Gospel Reveals God’s Justice</u></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● To Justify all who are in Christ</li></ul>	<b>“It was to show his <u>righteousness</u> at the present time, so that he might be <u>just</u> and the <u>justifier</u> of the one who has faith in Jesus.” Romans 3:26</b>

Come back next week to study this passage in **Romans 3**. For now just notice the play on words with the word “righteousness.” All three underlined words have the same root in the Greek. The gospel reveals God’s “justice, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.” Or: the gospel reveals God’s “righteousness, so that he might be righteous and the one who declares righteous the one who has faith in Jesus.”

***To be JUSTIFIED is to be RIGHTEOUS-IFIED or declared righteous in the courtroom of God.*** This is the essence of our salvation in Christ. God does not pronounce you guilty. And He goes beyond calling you “not guilty” to actually look at you under the blood of Jesus and say “this one is RIGHTEOUS.”

Romans 3 is the explanation for how God can make such a declaration and still be a God of justice.

But now back **in Romans 1 we see the other side of God’s justice.**

<b><u>The Gospel Reveals God's Justice</u></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To Condemn all who are outside of Christ</li> </ul>	<p>“For in it the righteousness of God is revealed... <b>For the wrath of God is revealed</b> from heaven against all the... unrighteousness of men.” Romans 1:17-18</p>

The gospel reveals both God's justice to save and His justice to condemn. God is perfectly righteous and will be glorified in either outcome. ***Until you understand the ultimate purpose of everything to glorify God*** you will not understand what happens in your life, in the world or in eternity. God's ultimate purpose is to reveal the glory of His nature - that He is righteous, just and good.

<b><u>The Gospel Reveals God's Justice</u></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To Justify all who are in Christ</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To Condemn all who are outside of Christ</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Either way, God will be Glorified</b></li> </ul>	

**God will be glorified in every single person -**

- either in their salvation or their condemnation.
- Either outcome reveals the glorious nature of God. It is up to each individual whether their life and eternity ***glorifies the mercy of God in their justification or whether their life and eternity glorifies the justice of God in their condemnation.***

The eternal condemnation of those who refuse to worship glorifies God because it confirms that He is a good judge. If God simply looked the other way and accepted everyone into heaven He would not be just. He would not be good. **What would you think of a human judge** who had thieves, rapists and murderers before him he knew were guilty but he winked at them and said, “Don't worry about it. We know you didn't mean it”?

If we expect justice from our human courts why would we expect anything less from the divine courtroom? Unlike human judges whose knowledge is limited, **God knows EVERYTHING** - He sees EVERYTHING. He knows - in perfect detail - every thought, every intention, every choice, every action and every consequence. God alone knows EXACTLY what every one of us deserves.

And doesn't that make you SHUDDER? The God of all justice is the omniscient ruler over all things. He knows every detail of your life and He WILL judge you for it - UNLESS you already stand before Him justified in Christ. If you have called on Jesus to be your defense attorney then

there is NO CONDEMNATION for you. We'll get back to that later. For now let's look at the **four sobering facts** Romans 1 teaches us about every person on earth:

**Every Person on Earth:**

1. Knows there is an Almighty Creator God

“What can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived.”  
Romans 1:19-20

Apart from the Bible, apart from any missionaries, apart from the church or a single gospel tract - every human being on this planet already KNOWS there is a Creator God. God Himself has shown this truth to them. The eternal power and divine nature of God have been clearly perceived by every single human soul.

***You see the glory of God in every sunrise and sunset.*** You feel the power of God in every storm, with every lightning bolt. Our whole family was in the house one day in Kentucky when the house got struck by lightning. It sounded and felt like an artillery shell hit the roof. My father-in-law and I literally ran outside to look for smoke from the impact in the roof. Of course, the lightning went straight through the house and fried a bunch of electronics. So there was no smoking hole in the roof - just a crispy garage door opener and some broken electronics. Our wii was still fairly new at that point so the boys were mainly crushed that all of their mii's were gone. The depths of personal tragedy there.

Thunder and lightning remind us how small we are and how big God is. Wind and rain and hail. ***Hurricanes and tsunamis.*** Tornados and earthquakes. Just look at the ocean. Look up in the sky on a clear night. Pause for a second to inspect a single blade of grass or to play with your dog. The wonders of creation are literally all around us - and embedded in our every cell as we - human beings - are the most amazing of all of God's creation.

And everyone on earth KNOWS IT.

**Every Person on Earth:**

1. Knows there is an Almighty Creator God

“His invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made.” Romans 1:19-20

***Creation SINGS the glory of God.*** It shouts out the truth of God's power, creativity and love. What a beautiful world God has made for us! Oh, we've messed it up real good - but still the wonder and majesty - the fingerprints of God are all around us. And even the most vocal atheist KNOWS - deep in his heart - that God is real. However - fact number 2:

### **Every Person on Earth:**

2. Chooses to worship *other things* instead of God

“Although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him.” Romans 1:21

Verse 18 says “by their unrighteousness” people “suppress the truth.” They know there is a God but they choose not to worship Him - not to give thanks to Him - not to acknowledge Him as Creator.

***What does the Creator deserve from His creation?*** What rights does the Maker have over what He has made? Total, right? Absolute sovereignty. If you create something from scratch it is YOURS to do with what you want, right?

Since God made this whole universe, including every one of us - what does He deserve from us? ***Honor! Worship! Thanksgiving! Gratitude!*** Everything we have is a gift from His loving hands. Every breath we draw in; every thought we process; every word we say; every relationship; every possession - every single thing belongs to God the Creator. Nothing we have is truly ours. It is all on loan from Him.

And yet - ***NO ONE seeks God. NO ONE.*** Everyone turns away from God. 100%. Including you and including me. Read Romans 3. No one on earth has ever given God the worship He deserves. No one living today can or does.

### **Every Person on Earth:**

2. Chooses to worship *other things* instead of God

“They became futile in their thinking... and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals...” Romans 1:21,23

Instead of worshiping God as He deserves, everyone turns to other things. Here Paul mentions actual carved idols which were the standard form of worship in his day. Today most idols are not little statues but instead are matters of the heart. We don't worship Baal or Athena, ***today people worship money and sex and fame*** and success and health and beauty and pleasure.

Anything you give what only God deserves is an IDOL for you. Anything you love and trust and serve and obey - THAT is your functional god. Don't deceive yourself into thinking you are exempt from this. This truth applies to EVERYONE - including us. Calvin said, ***“Our hearts are idol factories.”*** Humans - including followers of Jesus - are constantly producing new deities to worship and serve. The primary one in the U.S. right now is the SELF. We bow down to the All Glorious, All deserving ME.

***This is the air we breathe so we are all infected by it.*** You unavoidably experience the world through YOUR eyes, your senses, your feelings, your experiences your understanding, your values. YOU are the center of your universe. Most of us learn to not be like toddlers and insist that everyone else function as if we are the center of the universe - but deep down we all feel the pull toward selfishness. Even if you hate yourself guess who is still in the center of your thoughts? You are.

It is not a question of WHETHER you worship idols - but only a question of **WHAT IDOLS** you happen to prefer. ***If you don't know your areas of sin and temptation you will never make progress in overcoming them.*** Know your sin so you can FIGHT your sin.

For now just sympathize with those who are NOT BELIEVERS. They know there is a Creator but they choose - over and over again - not to worship Him but instead to worship other gods. Fact 3  
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### **Every Person on Earth:**

3. Becomes **confused**, controlled and consumed by their sin

***“By their unrighteousness suppress the truth... they became futile in their thinking and their foolish hearts were darkened... they became fools.” Romans 1:18,21-22***

Romans 1 shows ***three EXCHANGES*** people make followed by ***three RELEASES*** from God.

- People exchange God's glory for idols and God gives them up to their desires
- People exchange the truth of God for a lie and God gives them up to their passions;
- People exchange natural relations for unnatural ones and God gives them up to their depravity.

As people turn away from God, He lets them go. God does not force Himself on anyone. And the result is UNIVERSAL, TOTAL DEPRAVITY. Everyone turns away from God. Everyone gets overcome by their sin.

The picture for me is of a **WHIRLPOOL**. Everyone is born with a sinful nature - standing waist deep, let's say, in moving water. From the moment we start making conscious choices we don't move to higher, firmer ground but instead move deeper, further into our sin. And pretty soon the currents of sin grab us and become harder and harder to fight - until the current has you and sweeps you into this swirling vortex like ***the giant space squid in the Star Wars Solo movie.***

[In the dark space of the image below, please include this verse: **Confusion: “They became futile in their thinking and their foolish hearts were darkened... they became fools.” Romans 1:21-22**]



Three phases in this whirlpool of death - the first one is **confusion**. Their hearts and minds are darkened, confused, contaminated by sin. What is the first step in RECOVERY? Admitting you have a problem. What is the sticking point for more people when it comes to recovery? DENIAL. Sin is a cancer that loves to hide. So we become professional sin-hiders and blame-shifters. Sin deceives us. It hides and dodges. The heart is truly deceitful above all things. Who can understand it?

### **Every Person on Earth:**

3. Becomes confused, **controlled** and consumed by their sin

“Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity... God gave them up to dishonorable passions... [they] were consumed with passion for one another.” Rom. 1:23-28

The currents of the whirlpool grab on and don't let go. They drag you in and then drag you under. Confusion - the inability to really see the problem growing, leads to control. Sin becomes the master.

- We see this clearly with ***drugs and alcohol*** but studies have shown that ***sexual addiction*** is actually more powerful than cocaine in terms of what it does in the human brain.

It's easy to judge other people who have more visible addictions like those; but reflect on your own heart and realize you are no better; I am no better. Our issues are just different and usually more easy to hide.

- ***Greed*** can control you - the longing for financial security. The worship of money and things.
- ***Fear*** can control you - the need to know every little thing, the need for a detailed plan that you made or signed off on.

- **Selfishness** will control you - focusing on your own needs and desires at the expense of others.
- **Pride** is the worst of all and the hardest to see in ourselves - but pride will absolutely control you - and the first thing pride will convince you of is that "it's not your fault." If you think you're better than other people BEWARE. You may be controlled by your own self-righteousness.

Sin - in any form - takes over. It is a growing weed that spreads rapidly, with deep roots. And, like any weed or cancer, the goal of sin is to totally take over.

### **Every Person on Earth:**

3. Becomes confused, controlled and **consumed** by their sin

"They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice... They are gossips, slanderers, haters of God, insolent..." Romans 1:29-30

**Sin spreads until it is everywhere** in your heart, mind and life. Oh, it will deceive you into thinking you're in control - but all the while it is digging its roots deep and spreading its feelers out until its fruits are ready and its toxic poison is everywhere. Or, to come back to the whirlpool picture, sin will let you think you're swimming - managing things ok for a while - and then a particularly strong current will grab you with desire and before you can react, you'll be under water.

Pastor - ***do you really mean EVERYONE?*** You mean me - 65 year old saint who's been a believer for 55 years? Do you mean YOU - pastor of nearly 20 years?

Yes. I mean everyone. **Epecially me.** Oh, if you knew the depths of my pride and selfishness you would shudder. You'd be ashamed. I limit how much I say up here so my sin does not tarnish the name of Jesus. I'm not saying sin is controlling me now - I live in the freedom and victory of Jesus! But sin still lurks in the shadows and corners of my life. If I let down my guard sin is waiting for me - crouching right there and waiting to pounce.

You better believe I have protections in place to keep me from my areas of temptation and sin. You better believe my wife is well aware of those and we work very actively to maintain our relationship. You better believe that my pride is powerful and is especially adept at hiding itself, and my other sins, from me.

Look at the words here - ***"they are FILLED WITH."*** Sin consumes. It controls. It defines us. It takes over until it is everywhere. And all the while it confuses - hiding, deceiving, dodging detection.



This is true of every person on earth - "they are filled with all manner of unrighteousness." And Romans 1:18 says this is what the WRATH OF GOD has been revealed AGAINST. Sin takes over until there is nothing left. Sin is a cancer that kills off all the healthy cells until only the sin remains. Verse 29-30 "they ARE gossips, slanderers, haters of God..." It is what people BECOME. Sin consumes people.

Fact 4 -

**Every Person on Earth:**

4. Knows God **is condemning** them to eternal punishment

"They know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die." Romans 1:32

Yes, the tense of that is accurate. Present tense. All sinners are already - currently - BEING CONDEMNED under God's just wrath. Verse 27 says they are "receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error." That does not refer to AIDS. There was no AIDS in the first century. Paul could not mean that, anticipating an epidemic in Africa in the 20th century.

Paul does mean that SIN ITSELF is the penalty for our growing perversion. ***The greatest consequence for sin is LIVING WITH YOURSELF.*** The more sin has control of you the more difficult you will be for others to live with and for yourself to live with. C.S. Lewis says it this way in Mere Christianity:

"Christianity asserts that every individual human being is going to live forever... Now there are a good many things which would not be worth bothering about if I were going to live only 70 years, but which I had better bother about very seriously if I am going to live forever."

"Perhaps my bad temper or my jealousy are gradually getting worse - so gradually that the increase in 70 years will not be very noticeable. But it might be absolute hell in a million years."  
C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

***Extend the line of your life to infinite*** - and even the smallest vice becomes a terrible misery. Whatever hell is, a defining characteristic of it is REGRET - "weeping and gnashing of teeth." Whether there is real fire and brimstone is debatable - the point is that hell will be absolute and unending suffering under the just wrath of God. And Romans 1 shows us that God's wrath - just like His glory - is already being revealed from heaven.

**Every Person on Earth:**

4. Knows God is condemning them to eternal punishment

"They know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die." Romans 1:32

Hear this: **people KNOW**. They know God is real. They know they are sinners. And they know that God MUST punish them for sin - in fact, they increasingly suspect that God IS PUNISHING them for their sins.

Now - *I am not saying that the BELIEVER'S suffering is all from our sin*. No doubt some of it is. Some of our problems we very much bring on ourselves because of our sinful, selfish choices. Most marriage trouble is clearly in this category. If your marriage is struggling I guarantee BOTH OF YOU have messed that up with your sin.

There are other sources for our suffering - the sins of others, the brokenness of this world, the devil... So please don't hear me saying that GOD IS PUNISHING YOU. Romans 8 - *"there is NO CONDEMNATION for those who are in Christ Jesus."* Hold on to that.

What I am saying is that everyone on earth has **a severe problem called sin**. They know that God is righteous and will punish their sin - and that sin ultimately deserves death. Have you ever wondered why people so often use phrases with reference to hell?

- "Go to," "Rot in," "Mad as," "Hot as," "Snowball's chance in," "What the," "See you in"
- Or probably the most insightful one: *"sure as..."*?

What a profound expression. For the sinner, apart from Jesus, **hell is an absolute certainty**. As sure as death and taxes it is truthful and accurate to say "sure as hell."

I'll lighten the mood here with **a Friends reference**. Remember the one where Monica is trying to figure out Phoebe's grandmother's secret recipe for chocolate chip cookies? She agonizes the whole episode until finally they realize the recipe is from Nes-LAY Toll-hows.



“Nestle Tollhouse!” At one point Phoebe makes reference to her grandmother “looking up at us.” The friends look at her funny, “don’t you mean ‘looking down on us,” like she’s in heaven. And Phoebe immediately responds, *“Oh, no - she’s in hell for sure. She was a terrible person.”*

**People know.** They know that what they are doing deserves judgment and condemnation. They suppress this truth. They deny it. They try to blame it on others. But deep down they know it. No one will stand before Jesus on judgment day and complain about the verdict that sends them to hell. They know already that is the verdict they deserve. They are already experiencing the judgment of God against them for their sin.

### **Every Person on Earth:**

4. Knows God is condemning them to eternal punishment

*“The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.” Romans 1:18*

This is the justice of God that the gospel reveals. He is righteous to save those who belong to Jesus - because Jesus paid for our sin. But God is also righteous to condemn those who do not belong to Jesus. No one has paid for their sin - so they must pay for it - and they already are.

So here is the key point for today:

**The 1.8 billion people who have never heard the gospel of Jesus Christ are not ok**

*“The wrath of God is being revealed... so they are without excuse.” Romans 1:18,20*

Picture in your mind a muslim in Iran. **Think of a woman wearing her hijab head covering.**



She has never heard about Jesus. Not once. Your first feeling is sympathy - and rightly so. Poor woman. Oppressed. Probably abused. Silenced. Set aside. Used like property. Very sad.

**What is the SPIRITUAL CONDITION of this woman?** Is she OK with God? What does the Bible teach us?

Look at your outline. She knows in her heart there is an Almighty Creator God. She's been taught that His name is Allah - but she knows there is a God. Though she does go to the mosque and say some prayers - she has never given God the wholehearted worship and devotion He deserves as her creator but has chosen to worship other things instead. Probably Mohammed to some degree. Probably her ancestors. Most likely her own needs and desires.

As her sin has grown and is growing in her heart **she has become increasingly confused** about truth and morality; she has become **increasingly controlled by her own sin and gradually that sin is CONSUMING her.**

[Add to the image above these verses: **"By their unrighteousness suppress the truth... they became futile in their thinking... they exchanged the truth about God for a lie."** Rom. 1:18,21,25]

She knows - deep in her heart - she knows that God is already condemning her for her sin. She feels guilt. She feels shame. She not only knows she has done wrong, she feels deep inside like she IS wrong. And she is right about that.

**Before God - she is guilty. She is ashamed.** She HAS NO EXCUSE. The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all of her ungodliness and unrighteousness because by her own unrighteousness she has chosen to suppress the truth. Though she knows God is powerful and

good, she has not honored him as God or given thanks sincerely to him. And so she is WITHOUT EXCUSE.

Her thinking has become futile. Her foolish heart is darkened. God has already given her over to the lusts of her own heart and more and more her selfishness and sin is consuming her.

***This woman - this muslim woman - IS NOT OK.*** When you think of the 1.8 billion people in the world who have NEVER heard the gospel of Jesus Christ let's get this point clear. They are NOT OK.

**The 1.8 billion people who have never heard the gospel of Jesus Christ are not ok**  
***"The wrath of God is being revealed... so they are without excuse."*** Romans 1:18,20

Every day when 10s of thousands of these people die does their death and judgment glorify God? Yes. Absolutely. God is glorified both to save those in Christ and He is glorified to condemn those outside of Christ. But don't for one second deceive yourself into thinking that God can allow this muslim woman into heaven. He cannot and will not. She is controlled and consumed by her sin and has no access to the Savior.

What? You say. How is this fair? Read your Bible. ***Read the rest of Romans.*** Study it for yourself. Wrestle with this truth. Jesus was clear. The whole Bible is clear. "The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the unrighteousness of people."

Did you pay attention to the **Old Testament** earlier this year? ***Did you notice the JUSTICE and WRATH of God?*** You can't miss it! Should we cut the Bible apart and only read the love and mercy parts? Or are we actually interested in the truth? Apart from Jesus, people...

**The 1.8 billion people who have never heard the gospel of Jesus Christ are not ok**  
***"The wrath of God is being revealed... so they are without excuse."*** Romans 1:18,20

- They live without hope.
- They die without hope.

God is a God of justice. Holiness and righteousness are His defining attributes. God cannot deny HIMSELF. Plus God has said over and over in Scripture that **Jesus is the ONLY WAY.**

Consider the logic of the argument that says "People who never hear the gospel are ok. God will forgive them and accept them." If that is true - that even though the Bible says "Jesus is the only way," there is actually another way called "never hearing the gospel - if that is the case then THE WORST thing we could do is bring the gospel to one of the 4,814 people groups who have never heard it. After all - once they hear the gospel NOW they are responsible to believe it. Those who reject it will go to hell where before they heard the gospel they would have gone to heaven!

If those who never hear the gospel get into heaven then all missions agencies should shut down immediately and all missionaries should just come home!

But the truth is that those who never hear the gospel - like the muslim woman we were thinking about - are NOT OK. They CANNOT get into heaven. Their sins are still on them and in them. They have not been declared righteous in Christ so they stand before God guilty - covered in sin. They have NO DEFENSE ATTORNEY - no defense they can make. They will get exactly what they deserve. Listen to Romans 2:

**The 1.8 billion people who have never heard the gospel of Jesus Christ are not ok**

**“The judgment of God rightly falls on those who practice such things... He will render to each one according to his works.” Romans 2:2,6**

- **They have no legal defense**

How many of you have gotten a ticket from one of those ***photo enforced intersections***? Go ahead. My hand is up - three times. The first one I got was from New York City and as I read the letter I was praying that Kristin had been the one driving. Nope. It was me. The second one I got was in Chicago and I knew it was me from the intersection but I was praying the system was wrong. They had a link to the video. I pull up to the red light that clearly says, “No turn on red. Photo enforced.” And I slow way down. Way down. I’m like - “Yes, I’m good.” I slow down to like half a mile an hour, rolling up to the line... But the car clearly doesn’t stop. It’s going very slowly but there is no doubt. The video is clear and condemning. No stop. \$100. Thanks village of Arlington Heights.

I read all the fine print - looking for a way to appeal. Nothing. No way out. Pay the fine. ***That was just \$100.*** Stings but you get over it. (Or in my case you’re bitter about it for years.) **The 1 billion, 857 million, 575 thousand people** who have never heard the gospel the fine is not \$100 - it is an ETERNITY IN HELL. It is forever in misery. It is being consumed by their sin, selfishness and anger for unending millennia.

**The 1.8 billion people who have never heard the gospel of Jesus Christ are not ok**

**“Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” Romans 10:13**

- **They have no legal defense**
- **Unless we tell them about The Defense Attorney**

How can they hear unless someone goes to tell them? How can they believe in the one of whom they have never heard? This is Romans 10. Everyone who calls on the name of Jesus will be saved! His name is the only name under heaven by which people can be saved. There is no escape clause for those who never hear. They are already being condemned for their refusal to worship the one true Creator God.

### **We must tell them about The Advocate**

“Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.’ How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?” Romans 10:13-14

It’s just like the guy on the bridge. He sees that the bridge has collapsed. He first breathes a huge sigh of relief that he is ok. He didn’t plunge over it to his death. But his next thought - just as you or I would do in his place - is to get this information to the people who most desperately need it: the other drivers coming right at this drop into death.

We who know the truth are bound by duty and love and Scripture to TELL THOSE WHO DON’T know the truth. This starts with the people closest to us - but the responsibility continues until the very last person hears the gospel. That is what Jesus is waiting for before he will come back. For “the full number of the gentiles to come in.” Since Jesus has not yet come back it means there are people out there who still have not heard.

**They WILL NOT hear unless we go.** Let’s resolve over the next year to PRAY for the remaining FRONTIER people groups. Let’s resolve to LEARN about them. And let’s support our missions team and elders to begin exploring how we as a church can play our part in completing the great commission - bringing the light of the gospel to those who are lost utter darkness.