

They Are Without Excuse Romans 1:18-22

I. INTRODUCTION: I

I. **2** On our recent trip out West I kept asking myself what spiritual lessons I was learning (or confirming); I came up with several:

A. ****** God's amazing power: Psa. 147:4-5

- (1) As I viewed the vastness of the Grand Canyon, Zion Canyon, Bryce Canyon and Monument Valley I could not help but be impressed with God's amazing power.
- (2) For example, we saw only a relatively small portion of the Grand Canyon.
- (3) To see the entire canyon would take weeks, if not months.
- (4) The Grand Canyon is 277 miles long and varies from 4 to 18 miles in width.
- (5) I can't begin to tell you how many times the sites caused me to say, "Wow!"

B. ****** Evidence for the Great Flood: Gen. 6-8

- (1) As I viewed the various rock formations one could not help but be impressed that the Great Flood in the days of Noah really happened.
- (2) Each location presented obvious evidence of massive layers of sedimentary rocks (i.e., rocks laid down by water).
- (3) Each location also presented obvious evidence of a great cataclysm where water quickly eroded away thousands of cubic miles of these sedimentary layers.
- (4) **3** For example, in the Grand Canyon it was easy to see that layer upon layer of rock was stacked on top of one another like stacks of pancakes.
 - (a) For example, the layers of sedimentary rocks in the Grand Canyon (~1 mile deep!) are stacked directly on top of one another with no evidence of erosion between the layers (There would be ample evidence of erosion IF the rocks were millions of years old as atheistic scientist so boldly assume.).
 - (b) **4** Here is a diagram of the sedimentary rock layers in the Grand Canyon, note how they lay directly on top of one another with no discontinuities.
 - (c) **5** If, as the evolutionists assert, each layer was separated by millions of years; the pattern would look more like this (i.e., showing evidence of erosion between adjacent layers).
 - (d) **6** In Zion Canyon one can see that the still soft layers of rock flowed like pancake batter after the Flood.

C. **7** God's hatred of sin:

- (1) As one views the various canyons and rock formations the vastness of it all is overwhelming; pictures cannot begin to do it justice.
- (2) For example, as you view the Grand Canyon from the south rim it is about 18 miles wide and over a mile deep (Looking down into the canyon made me dizzy!).
- (3) I tried to imagine the canyon as it was being formed and the vast volume of water and its mighty power as it rushed through and carved the canyon (mention Youtube video: Grand Canyon hydroplate theory).

- (4) All of these amazing and vast sites were produced as a direct result of man's sin:

Gen. 6:5-7: "Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. 6 And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. 7 So the LORD said, 'I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them.' 8 But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD."

- (5) All these sites present wonderful natural beauty, but one must also realize they are great scars on the earth due to man's sin.

D. **** God's amazing grace:**

- (1) As one views the various canyons and rock formations and the vastness of it all I could not help but think how terrifying the Flood must have been.
- (2) I believe we fail to appreciate the greatness of the Flood's power and the dramatic changes it made in the Earth.

Gen. 7:17-24: "Now the flood was on the earth forty days. The waters increased and lifted up the ark, and it rose high above the earth. 18 The waters prevailed and greatly increased on the earth, and the ark moved about on the surface of the waters. 19 And the waters prevailed exceedingly on the earth, and all the high hills under the whole heaven were covered. 20 The waters prevailed fifteen cubits upward, and the mountains were covered. 21 And all flesh died that moved on the earth: birds and cattle and beasts and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, and every man. 22 All in whose nostrils was the breath of the spirit of life, all that was on the dry land, died. 23 So He destroyed all living things which were on the face of the ground: both man and cattle, creeping thing and bird of the air. They were destroyed from the earth. Only Noah and those who were with him in the ark remained alive. 24 And the waters prevailed on the earth one hundred and fifty days."

- (3) As one conjures up mental images of what the Flood must have been like, it is amazing Noah and his family survived.
- (4) But they did survive! Why?

Gen. 6:8: "But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD."

Gen. 6:22: "Thus Noah did; according to all that God commanded him, so he did."

- (5) Heaven help us if we don't learn to appreciate this lesson!

E. **** Our need for one another:** Jn. 13:34; 2 Pet. 1:1

2. Lord willing, I will address all the lesson I learned in future sermons.
3. However, this morning I want to address another important lesson I learned (confirmed): The vast majority of people are L-O-S-T!
- A. Everywhere we went I couldn't help but look at all the people; I saw tons of people from all over the world.
- B. ****** One day at the Grand Canyon I sat on the porch of the El Tovar Hotel and watched the people for about an hour.
- C. It saddened me to think that probably 99.9% of the people I saw were lost!
- D. I don't mean to sound arrogant, I know that I am only saved by God's grace (Eph. 2:8).

E. But if the Bible is true (and it is!) that is just the plain fact of the matter!

Matt. 7:13-14: *“Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. 14 Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.”*

4. ** As I pondered the sad fact the vast majority of people are lost I searched for an explanation.
- A. Why are so many lost?
 - B. How does one explain it?
 - C. Is God fair?
 - D. Does God care?
5. 8 Let's consider some thoughts about those that are lost.

II. DISCUSSION:

As we think of the lost...

I. 9 Who is lost and why?

- A. For the most part, the people I observed were just ordinary, average folks like you and me.
- B. Why are people lost?

(1) Are people lost because of ignorance?

- (a) Ignorance of a law doesn't nullify the law.
- (b) Try telling a policeman you didn't know the speed limit and see if that brings you any sympathy.
- (c) If one must know the law before he can break the law, then there would be no such thing as a sin of ignorance. Ignorance would imply there was no sin.
- (d) Jesus was killed by the Jews in ignorance; it did not excuse their sin:
Acts 3:17-19a: *“Yet now, brethren, I know that you did it in ignorance, as did also your rulers. 18 But those things which God foretold by the mouth of all His prophets, that the Christ would suffer, He has thus fulfilled. 19 Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out...”*

(e) Paul explodes the myth that people are saved in their ignorance:

Acts 17:30-31: *“Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, 31 because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.”;*
Hosea 4:6

(2) Consider Romans 2:12: (i.e., codified vs. uncoded law under consideration):

Rom. 2:12: *“For as many as have sinned without law will also perish without law, and as many as have sinned in the law will be judged by the law...”*

- (a) Those who sin while under a codified law (e.g., Law of Moses) are judged by that law; yet those who sin without codified law also perish!
- (b) Having, or not having, a codified law did not alter the outcome; it only altered the standards to which they were judged.
- (c) Even without a codified law, people sin!

- (d) People are lost due to their sins!
- (e) 1 John 3:4 tells us “*sin is the transgression of law (codified or uncoded; formal or natural).*”
- (f) Because sin causes a breach in fellowship between man and God:
Isa. 59:1-2: “*Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; nor His ear heavy, that it cannot hear. 2 But your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear.*”
- (g) Sin is universally found: Rom. 3:23
- (h) In fact, in Romans chapters 1 and 2 Paul shows that sin exists among the Gentiles and the Jews, among those without the codified law of God and those with the codified law of God.
- (i) And, because of their sin all have earned the sentence of eternal death: Rom. 6:23
- (j) Without accepting God’s remedy for sin, man remains condemned:
Rom. 5:16-19: “*And the gift is not like that which came through the one who sinned. For the judgment which came from one offense resulted in condemnation, but the free gift which came from many offenses resulted in justification. 17 For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.) 18 Therefore, as through one man's offense judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man's righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life. 19 For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous.*”
- (k) All men need reconciliation with God, otherwise we are God’s enemy!
Rom. 5:10-11: “*For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. 11 And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.*”

C. Who is lost? All men, because we’ve all sinned! Rom. 3:23; Isa. 59:1-2

As we consider that the vast majority of people are lost...

2. **10** Is God fair?

- A. Is it fair for God to hold men accountable for their sins? Yes!
 - (1) He is our Creator: **Gen. 1:26-27:** “*Then God said, ‘Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness...’ 27 So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.*”
 - (2) How did He make us? **Eccl. 7:29:** “*Truly, this only I have found: That God made man upright, but they have sought out many schemes.*”
- B. This is the key to our accountability: “*but they have sought out many schemes.*”; Rom. 3:23; Isa. 59:1-2; **Ezek. 18:20:** “*The soul who sins shall die.*”

C. God's basic requirement for all men is this: **Heb. 11:6**: "But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him."

D. Fair? Yes! God gives abundant evidence for man to believe!

(I) God gives abundant evidence for man to believe He exists in His Book of Nature:

(a) **11** Origin of the Universe:

- ☛ The Law of Causality states that every effect has a cause (foundation of all the sciences!),
- ☛ Materialists/atheists cannot offer a real cause for the origin of the Universe,
******Robert Jastrow, founder and former director of the *Goddard Institute for Space Studies* at NASA, an evolutionist, wrote:

"The Universe, and everything that has happened in it since the beginning of time, are a grand effect without a known cause. An effect without a known cause? That is not the world of science; it is a world of witchcraft, of wild events and the whims of demons, a medieval world that science has tried to banish. As scientists, what are we to make of this picture? I do not know."

12 He also said: *"The seed of everything that has happened in the Universe was planted in that first instant; every star, every planet and every living creature in the Universe came into being as a result of events that were set in motion in the moment of the cosmic explosion...The Universe flashed into being, and we cannot find out what caused that to happen."*

- ☛ The Universe is not eternal; when it came into being; space, time and matter came into being.
- ☛ Hence, the true cause of the Universe had to exist prior to the beginning of the Universe; the true cause had to be independent of space, time, and matter.
- ☛ ******Only God fits that description!

Psa. 90:2: "Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever You had formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God."

Rom. 1:20: "For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,"

(b) **13** Origin of life:

- The materialist is forced to believe in abiogenesis (i.e., that lifeless, unintelligent matter was somehow able to make the unimaginable leap from non-life to life undirected by intelligence!).
- Abiogenesis was proven false long ago by a mountain of empirical evidence (e.g., Louis Pasteur, 1864).
- Carl Sagan, was a firm believer in abiogenesis. He estimated the chance for abiogenesis occurring at 1 in $10^{2,000,000,000}$, yet he still believed it! (BTW: It is estimated there are only 10^{80} electrons in the entire know Universe!)

- (iv) Why do famed scientists believe in something so unscientific? Dr. George Wald, Harvard professor and winner of the Nobel Prize in Physiology (1967) for his work in the biochemistry of human vision provides the answer:

******“There are only two possible explanations as to how life arose: Spontaneous generation arising to evolution or a supernatural creative act of God... There is no other possibility. Spontaneous generation was scientifically disproved 120 years ago by Louis Pasteur and others, but that just leaves us with only one other possibility... that life came as a supernatural act of creation by God, but I can't accept that philosophy because I do not want to believe in God. Therefore, I choose to believe in that which I know is scientifically impossible, spontaneous generation leading to evolution.” (“Origin, Life and Evolution” in *Scientific American*, 1978)

(c) **I4** Complexity of life:

- (i) Life is unbelievable complex and designed (Design demands a designer! **Heb. 3:4:** “For every house is built by someone, but He who built all things is God.”).
- (ii) Spinal column model I saw in the doctor's office; **Psa. 139:14:** “I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well.”; so much more could be said.

☛ **Human brain:** The human brain simultaneously processes an amazing amount of information. Your brain takes in all the colors and objects you see, the temperature around you, the pressure of your feet against the floor, the sounds around you, the dryness of your mouth, even the texture of your keyboard. Your brain holds and processes all your emotions, thoughts and memories. At the same time your brain keeps track of the ongoing functions of your body like your breathing pattern, eyelid movement, hunger and movement of the muscles in your hands.

The human brain processes more than a million messages a second. Your brain weighs the importance of all this data, filtering out the relatively unimportant. This screening function is what allows you to focus and operate effectively in your world. The brain functions differently than other organs. There is an intelligence to it, the ability to reason, to produce feelings, to dream and plan, to take action, and relate to other people.

☛ **The eye...**can distinguish among seven million colors. It has automatic focusing and handles an astounding 1.5 million messages – simultaneously. Evolution focuses on mutations and changes from and within existing organisms. Yet evolution alone does not fully explain the initial source of the eye or the brain—the start of living organisms from nonliving matter.

- (d) **I5** DNA: Is the most complex and compact information storage and retrieval system in the entire Universe.

******“One gram of DNA can store 700 terabytes of data. That's 14,000 50-gigabyte Blu-ray discs... in a droplet of DNA that would fit on the tip of your pinky. To store the same kind of data on hard drives — the densest storage medium in use today — you'd need 233 3TB drives, weighing a total of 151 kilos.” (Harvard University)

I6 Werner Gitt, an information scientist, said:

“Not only is the amount of information in cellular DNA staggering, it's also incredibly compact. We marvel at computer storage disks with ever greater capacity. Yet the

quantity of information that could be stored in a pinhead's volume of DNA is equivalent to the content of paperback books spanning the distance from the earth to the moon 500 times—each book being unique from the others.”

- ☛ The code imbedded in DNA does not depend on its chemical properties; it is like a message written in ink on paper. Such a message does not depend on the chemical properties of the ink and paper!
- ☛ How could DNA have possibly resulted from the unintelligent, undirected random collision of lifeless molecules?

(e) **17** Earth:

- ☛ **Perfect size:** If Earth were smaller, an atmosphere would be impossible (think of the planet Mercury); if Earth were larger, its atmosphere would contain free hydrogen, like Jupiter (very toxic!).
- ☛ **Atmosphere:** The Earth is the only known planet equipped with an atmosphere of the right mixture of gases to sustain plant, animal and human life.
- ☛ **Distance from the Sun:** The Earth is located the right distance from the sun; if the Earth were any further away from the sun, we would all freeze; any closer and we would burn up. Even a fractional variance in the Earth's position to the sun would make life on Earth impossible. The Earth remains this perfect distance from the sun while it rotates around the sun at a speed of nearly 67,000 mph. It is also rotating on its axis, allowing the entire surface of the Earth to be properly warmed and cooled every day.
- ☛ **Moon:** Our moon is the perfect size and distance from the Earth for its gravitational pull. The moon creates important ocean tides and movement so ocean waters do not stagnate, and yet our massive oceans are restrained from spilling across the continents.
- ☛ **Water:** Colorless, odorless and without taste, and yet no living thing can survive without it. Plants, animals and human beings consist mostly of water (about two-thirds of the human body is water) .It has wide margin between its boiling point and freezing point. Water allows us to live in an environment of fluctuating temperature changes, while keeping our bodies a steady 98.6 degrees. Water is a universal solvent. This property of water means that various chemicals, minerals and nutrients can be carried throughout our bodies and into the smallest blood vessels. Water is also chemically neutral. Without affecting the makeup of the substances it carries, water enables food, medicines and minerals to be absorbed and used by the body. Water has a unique surface tension. Water in plants can therefore flow upward against gravity, bringing life-giving water and nutrients to the top of even the tallest trees. Water freezes from the top down and floats, so fish can live in the winter. Ninety-seven percent of the Earth's water is in the oceans. But on our Earth, there is a system designed which removes salt from the water and then distributes that water throughout the globe. Evaporation takes the ocean waters, leaving the salt, and forms clouds which are easily moved by the wind to disperse water over the land, for vegetation, animals and people. It is a system of purification and supply that sustains life on this planet, a system of recycled and reused water.

(f) **18** Anthropic principle: Also called the “fine-tuning of the Universe”:

Fine Tuning of the Physical Constants of the Universe

Parameter	Max. Deviation
Ratio of electrons to protons	1×10^{37}
Ratio of electromagnetic force to gravity	1×10^{40}
Expansion rate of the Universe	1×10^{55}
Mass density of the Universe	1×10^{59}
Cosmological constant	1×10^{120}

These numbers represent the maximum deviation from the accepted values, that would either prevent the Universe from existing now, not having matter, or be unsuitable for any form of life.

☛ Recent studies have confirmed the fine tuning of the Universe is truly amazing. The degree of fine-tuning is difficult to imagine. Dr. Hugh Ross gives an example of the least fine-tuned of the above four examples in his book, [*The Creator and the Cosmos*](#), which is reproduced here:

☛ **19** One part in 10^{37} is such an incredibly sensitive balance that it is hard to visualize. The following analogy might help: Cover the entire North American continent in dimes all the way up to the moon, a height of about 239,000 miles (In comparison, the money to pay for the U.S. federal government debt would cover one square mile less than two feet deep with dimes.). Next, pile dimes from here to the moon on a billion other continents the same size as North America. Paint one dime red and mix it into the billions of piles of dimes. Blindfold a friend and ask him to pick out one dime. The odds that he will pick the red dime are one in 10^{37} .

☛ Another finely tuned constant is the strong nuclear force (the force that holds atoms together). The Sun "burns" by fusing hydrogen (and higher elements) together. When the two hydrogen atoms fuse, 0.7% of the mass of the hydrogen is converted into energy. If the amount of matter converted were slightly smaller—0.6% instead of 0.7%—a proton could not bond to a neutron, and the universe would consist only of hydrogen. With no heavy elements, there would be no rocky planets and no life. If the amount of matter converted were slightly larger—0.8%, fusion would happen so readily and rapidly that no hydrogen would have survived from the Big Bang. Again, there would be no solar systems and no life. The number must lie exactly between 0.6% and 0.8% (Martin Rees, *Just Six Numbers*).

(g) **20** Geology: There is so much in geology that proves the existence of God.

☛ Evolutionists claim the fossil record validates the veracity of Darwinian evolution. It does nothing of the sort!

☛ On the contrary, the fossil record shows no evidence of the transitional forms required for Darwinian evolution to be true.

☛ The fossil record unequivocally does NOT support Darwinian evolution!

******“The phrase 'the fossil record' sounds impressive and authoritative. As used by some persons it becomes, as intended, intimidating, taking on the aura of esoteric truth as expounded by an elite class of specialists. But what is it, really, this fossil

record? Only data in search of interpretation. All claims to the contrary that I know, and I know of several, are so much superstition.”

— **Dr. Gareth J. Nelson**

Curator
American Museum of Natural History,
New York City

**“The idea that one can go to the fossil record and expect to empirically recover an ancestor-descendant sequence, be it of species, genera, families, or whatever, has been, and continues to be, a pernicious illusion.”

— **Dr. Gareth J. Nelson**

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- ☛ **21** Radiometric dating: Totally relied upon by those believing the Universe is ~13.77 B years old and the Earth is ~34.5 B years old.
- ☛ Notoriously inaccurate and unreliable! (e.g., discordant dates) Explain some of its assumptions.
- ☛ Geology shows ample evidence of the Great Flood (Grand Canyon “Great Unconformity”).
- ☛ **22**** Sedimentary rocks (Flood sediments) are above the Great Unconformity.
- ☛ ****** Igneous (Pre-Cambrian; creation rocks) are below the Great Unconformity.
- ☛ **23** Evolutionists are baffled, because they cannot account for 1.2 billion years worth of rocks! ****** ****** Duh!

E. **24** People who deny the existence of God refuse to believe the evidence He has left proving His existence! There is no excuse for disbelieving!

****Rom. 1:18-20:** *“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, 19 because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. 20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,”*

F. **25** Furthermore, God promises all who search for (sincerely) Him will find Him.

****Acts 17:26-27:** *“And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation; 27 That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us:” (KJV)*

****Prov. 8:17:** *“I love those who love me, and those who seek me diligently will find me.”*

Jer. 29:13: *“And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.”*

******“God is the father playing hide-and-seek with his young children who hides in the closet and leaves the door open or his foot sticking out; he really wants to be found. God so wanted to be found that he sent his one and only Son to live among us and die for us. In Jesus God was saying, ‘Here I am! Come to me and find life.’” —C. S. Lewis

- ☛ **26** It is estimated there are at least 5 billion Bibles in the world.

- ☛ The Bible is the world's most translated book. At least one book of the Bible has been translated into 2,883 languages; the New Testament has been translated into 1,329 languages; and the Old and New Testaments together have been translated into 531 languages.
- ☛ I grant there is not equal access to the Bible (e.g., Saudi Arabia, China), but no one can deny that everyone has some level of access to the Bible.

G. **27** If one is lost, one of the following are true:

- (1) They refuse to believe the evidence for God's existence that is EVERYWHERE!
- (2) They believe that God exists but really don't care He exists.
- (3) They believe God exists, and they know about the Bible; but they have no interest in knowing Him (want to "do their own thing").

H. ****** Paul addressed all of these "excuses": Rom. 1:19-21

2 Cor. 4:3-4: *"But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, 4 whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them."*

Eph. 4:17-19: *"This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, 18 having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart; 19 who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness."*

I. ****** The judgment will be universal; no one will have an excuse: 2 Cor. 5:10; Matt. 25:31ff

As we consider that the vast majority of people are lost...

3. **28** Does God care?

A. As I view the vast majority of people in the world it brings me great sorrow!

- (1) They live seemingly totally oblivious there is a God.
- (2) They live seemingly totally oblivious God loves them dearly.
- (3) They live seemingly totally oblivious God wants to save them.

B. ****** Does God care? YES!

C. God has given us the absolute ultimate in His quest to save ALL us!

Jn. 3:16: *"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."*

Rom. 5:8: *"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."*

2 Cor. 5:14-15: *"For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; 15 and **He died for all**, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again."*

1 Jn. 2:2: *"And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world."*

Rom. 8:32: *"He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?"*

- D. ** What more could God do?
- (1) God has given more than ample evidence He exists.
 - (2) God has revealed salvation through Jesus Christ in His Word.
- E. Again, what more could God do?

As we consider that the vast majority of people are lost; it doesn't have to be so!

4. **29** All can be saved:

- A. It is God's fervent desire!

1 Tim. 2:3b-4: "God our Savior, 4 who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth."

- B. Why did the Sun come up this morning? So that you, me and all the people I saw viewing from the porch of the El Tovar Hotel can be saved!

2 Pet. 3:9: "The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance."

- C. We all can be saved from sin:

Isa. 1:18-20: "Come now, and let us reason together,' says the LORD, 'Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool. 19 If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land; 20 But if you refuse and rebel, you shall be devoured by the sword'; For the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

- (1) **KEY:** Notice verse 19, "if you are willing and obedient"

- (2) ** To what must we consent? Whom must we obey? Christ! Heb. 5:8-9

(a) Christ died for our sins: **1 Cor. 15:3:** "For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,"

(b) We are justified by the blood of Christ: **Rom. 5:9:** "Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him."

(c) Only through Christ can a person reach heaven; there is no other path available. There is no other means of salvation.

Jn. 14:6: "Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.'"

- (3) If people could be saved without going through Christ, then why would God have sent Him to die on the cross?

- (4) If salvation can be gained through ignorance, then it would have been best to leave the whole world in ignorance! Matt. 28:18-20; Mk. 16:15-16

- (5) ** Only in Christ we have:

(a) Redemption: Rom. 3:24

(b) Eternal life: Rom. 6:23

(c) Every spiritual blessing: Eph. 1:3

(d) Forgiveness: Col. 1:14

- (e) Salvation: 2 Tim. 2:10
- (6) **30** God's Word shows us only one way to get "in Christ"; remember Heb. 11:6? ("But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him."):
- (a) Hear: Rom. 10:17
- (b) Believe: Heb. 11:6; **Jn. 8:24**: "Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins."
- (c) Confess Christ: **Rom. 10:10**: "For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."; **Acts 8:37**: "Then Philip said, 'If you believe with all your heart, you may.' And he answered and said, 'I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.'"
- (d) Repent: **Acts 17:30**: "God...now commands all men everywhere to repent,"
- (e) Baptism: **2 Tim. 2:10**: "Therefore I endure all things for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the **salvation which is in Christ Jesus** with eternal glory."; **Gal. 3:26-27**: "For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. 27 For as many of you as were **baptized into Christ** have put on Christ."; **Rom. 6:3-5**: "Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? 4 Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. 5 For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection,"
- (f) Remain faithful: Rev. 2:10; **Col. 1:21-23**: "And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled 22 in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight — 23 if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard..."

D. ** What happens to those who are not "in Christ"?

2 Thess. 1:7b-9: "...when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, 8 in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,"

- (1) **31** Notice the classification of people who will be destroyed:
- (a) The disobedient: "those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ"
- (b) The ignorant: "those who do not know God" Ignorance does not save!
- (2) ** God's word is immutable! Titus 1:2; Heb. 6:18
- Num. 23:19**: "God is not a man, that He should lie, nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?"

1 Pet. 1:25: *“But the word of the LORD endures forever.’ Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you.”*

- (3) ****** God is certainly free to do as He pleases; BUT how could one possibly believe the Bible and hold out any hope of salvation for anyone who does not believe and follow His Word?!

III. CONCLUSION: **32**

1. God has made His presence and will clearly known to all men.

- A. There is no “excuse” for any human being not to recognize His existence (*Book of Nature*).
- B. There is no “excuse” for any human being not knowing His will (*Book of Scripture*).

2. ****** God will judge the world; He will judge everyone who has ever lived!

Acts 17:30-31: *“Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, 31 because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.”; 2 Cor. 5:10*

3. ****** What do we do? How do we respond?

A. Be determined to be faithful regardless of what Satan and this world throws at us.

- (1) God is there every step of the way to help us! Phil. 4:13; Eph. 3:20
- (2) The reward is totally worth any trial or persecution we may suffer!

2 Tim. 4:7-8: *“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8 Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.”; Rom. 8:17*

B. Share the message with others!

Jn. 4:35: *“Do you not say, ‘There are still four months and then comes the harvest’? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!”*

Mk. 16:15-16: *“And He said to them, ‘Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.”*

Matt. 16:26: *“For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?”*

4. Invitation