



Introduction

There are over 6.2 billion people alive on planet earth. Of that total, 2.5 billion claim to be Christians. That leaves 3.7 billion who have not placed their faith in Jesus. Many of the world's non-Christian population have never even heard of Jesus. Others may know his name, but they have no understanding that he died to pay the penalty for their sins.

This study will explore why it is imperative that each person has an opportunity to hear the claims of Jesus. It will challenge you to take an active role in lovingly telling the story of Jesus to a lost and dying world.

Destined For Destruction

Every person is sinful. If they have not placed their faith in Jesus, their destiny is clearly revealed.

Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment,

Hebrews 9:27

- Circle the destiny of every person.
- Underline the number of times they will die.
- Draw a box around the event that awaits them after death.
- *Scripture teaches that man dies only once. There is no reincarnation for mankind. You get one chance at life. Once death occurs, only judgment remains.*

Because Jesus' death on the cross is the only payment for sin that God will accept, those without Jesus will be found guilty.

⁸ He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. ⁹ They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power.

2 Thessalonians 1:8-9

- In verse 8, circle the judgment that awaits those who do not know God.
- In verse 9 underline the punishment that God will inflict.
- *Many have jokingly said "I want to go to hell because all of my friends will be there." Actually, hell is a lonely place. It is totally separated from the God of love. It will be a place of torment, destruction and loneliness.*

The destruction that occurs is like a fire that never goes out.

¹⁴ Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. ¹⁵ If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

Revelation 20:14-15

- Underline the people who will be thrown into the lake of fire.
- *The important event for everyone wanting a place in heaven is to have their name written in the Book of Life. That happens when a person places their faith in Jesus.*

The Lost

Jesus referred to those who have not been reconciled to God as "lost". It is not as if they have disappeared. Rather, they are lost in the spiritual dimension of their life. Some willfully reject God's purpose for their lives. Others have not had a chance to hear about God's loving plan to redeem them. All of them are lost.

Jesus is the Only Way to God

Scripture makes it clear that Jesus is the only remedy God has provided for the problem of man's sin:



John 14:6
Acts 4:12
Romans 5:18
1 Timothy 2:5

Jesus Spoke About Hell Often:



Matthew 5:29
Matthew 5:30
Matthew 10:28
Matthew 18:9
Matthew 23:33

Entrusted With Deliverance

The message of God's love has been entrusted to God's people. It is our responsibility to warn mankind about their fate and God's amazing provision. Paul spoke of his responsibility in his letter to the Romans.

¹⁴ I am obligated both to Greeks and non-Greeks, both to the wise and the foolish. ¹⁵ That is why I am so eager to preach the gospel also to you who are at Rome.

Romans 1:14-15

- The Greek word **opheiletes** is translated **obligated**, but has the deeper sense of **being indebted**. It is as if Paul was saying "I have not fully repaid the debt that I incurred.
- Circle those to whom Paul felt an obligation.
- Underline the word in verse 15 describing the intensity of Paul's desire to preach the gospel.

The reason Paul felt obligated was revealed in another letter he wrote.

¹⁹ that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰ We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.

2 Corinthians 5:19-20

- Circle the ones to whom the message of reconciliation has been entrusted.
- Underline the role we now fulfill for those who need reconciliation.
- Draw a box around the way God makes his appeal.
- The word **'reconcile'** means "to restore to friendship or harmony". So as ambassadors, we are to help people who are God's enemies to become His friends.

Paul was motivated both by the love he personally experienced as a forgiven sinner and by the love that God had toward those who are lost.

¹⁴ For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. ¹⁵ And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

2 Corinthians 5:14-15

- Circle the effect that Christ's love had on Paul.
- Underline for whom the living should now live.
- Paul was overcome by the love that Christ has. He concluded that he needed to live for Jesus, because Jesus had died for him.

Jesus' Purpose

While Paul gives us an example based on a sense of obligation, Jesus gives us an example of love that reveals the very heart of God. After all, Jesus is fully God and fully man. His reason for coming as a man was to rescue the lost from their sin.

The Message of Reconciliation

The message is easily learned and easily communicated. There are helpful tools in the Evangelism section of the Tools portion of the **VDRC** website.

There are also links to other sites that have wonderful helps.



For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost."

Luke 19:10

← Memorize

- Draw a circle around those for whom the Son of man came.
- Underline the two ways that Jesus pursues the lost.
- *When some seeks someone else, they are actively involved in looking. They expend the energy necessary to find the one whose is being sought. After finding them, they help rescue them from the danger that is facing them.*

Jesus did not love the lost with just words. He was involved in helping people with all manner of spiritual problems. When John's disciples came to Jesus, asking if He was the Christ, Jesus had an interesting response.

²⁰ *When the men came to Jesus, they said, "John the Baptist sent us to you to ask, 'Are you the one who was to come, or should we expect someone else?'"* ²¹ *At that very time Jesus cured many who had diseases, sicknesses and evil spirits, and gave sight to many who were blind.* ²² *So he replied to the messengers, "Go back and report to John what you have seen and heard: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor.*

Luke 7:20-22

- Underline the various ways Jesus showed love to people.
- *Helping people with their physical needs often opens their hearts to accept the remedy for their spiritual need.*

Jesus' love was expressed by a deep compassion and caring. He wanted his disciples to share his concern.

³⁶ *When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.* ³⁷ *Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few.* ³⁸ *Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."*

Matthew 9:36-38

- Underline why Jesus felt compassion for the crowds of people.
- Circle the word Jesus used to describe the harvest.
- In contrast to a bountiful harvest, underline the factor that is lacking.
- Draw a box around Jesus' instruction to His disciples.
- *The harvest that Jesus is describing is a harvest of the harassed and helpless people about whom Jesus had compassion.*
- ***Describe how a worker going into the harvest is an expression of love and compassion.***

The Heart of Jesus

While Jesus helped the sick, the lame, the blind and the deaf he also spent time with people of questionable reputation. When questioned about his choice of associates, He said...

> "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick"

Matthew 9:12

> I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent. **Luke 15:7**

Wanted: Loving Witnesses

Jesus' prayer request for workers to go into the harvest is just as valid today as it was 2000 years ago. Selfless love is the key that will result in the overthrow of the evil one. Consider the prophecy John makes concerning our adversary, the devil.

¹⁰ *Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: "Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ. For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down. ¹¹ They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.*

Revelation 12:10-11

- Underline in verse 10 the action taken against the accuser of the brethren.
- Circle the two elements used to overcome the evil one.
- Underline the action that characterizes their love.
- *Being willing to die (not shrink from death) is the ultimate expression of love. That is the example that Jesus gave. That is the sacrifice that many have already made. And there are others who in the future will give their life so that others may experience God's forgiveness.*

Being willing to die for Jesus is not half as important as being willing to live for Him. Paul describes the extent to which he was willing to go as a loving witness living for Jesus.

¹⁹ *Though I am free and belong to no man,
I make myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible.*

²⁰ *To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews.
To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law.*

²¹ *To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law.*

²² *To the weak I became weak, to win the weak.
I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some.*

²³ *I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.*

1 Corinthians 9:19-23

- Paul repeats the reason he changed his presence and approach to different people. Circle each phrase that describes his motivation.
- *Paul uses the phrase "I became" four times. **What changes do you think he was willing to make in his own lifestyle to enhance the possibility of influencing someone to respond to the gospel?***

Martyrs...

There have been more martyrs in the last 100 years than in all of the 1900 years before.

There is no greater witness a person can make than to choose death for the sake of serving Jesus.

Cultural Isolation...

can be described as staying in my own culture with people who are like me.

Paul's description of the changes he was willing to make to win others to Christ is a demonstration of cultural integration. He was willing to go to people who were different.

Unless someone is willing to go to people who are "different", then different people will never be reached.

Without loving witnesses, people will have no opportunity to hear the truth of God's love

¹⁴ How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? ¹⁵ And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

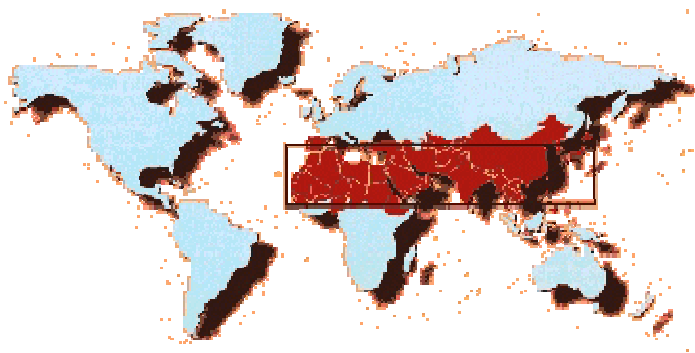
Romans 10:14-15

- Underline what is impeded if someone does not believe.
- Circle the activity that is impeded if someone does not hear..
- Draw a box around that which cannot occur without a preacher.
- Underline what cannot occur if someone is not sent.
- *Paul makes it clear that people coming to faith in God are a result of sent ones who preach the good news to listening ears.*

We are the only plan God has for reaching the world. He has chosen to speak his word through you and me. If we keep silent, no one will hear.

The World Before Us

Most of the areas of the earth have been reached with the gospel, with one exception. The area of the world in red below is known as the 10-40 Window. It represents the area of the earth where Jesus is not worshipped. Many within the window have never heard of Jesus.



Some statistics concerning the 10/40 window:

- 50% of the earth's population live in the 10/40 Window.
- 95% of the people living in the 10/40 Window are unevangelized
- 85% of those living in the 10/40 window are the poorest of the world's poor.
- Islam, Buddhism and Hinduism are centered in the 10/40 Window.
- 50% of the world's least evangelized cities are in this window.

There are...

- 865 million unreached Muslims in 3330 cultural sub-groupings
- 550 million unreached Hindus in 1660 cultural sub-groups
- 150 million unreached Chinese in 830 groups
- 275 million unreached Buddhists in 900 groups
- 2550 unreached tribal groups with a total population of 140 million

We are all sent

In one way or another, each of us is "sent". It may be simply to your family or to your neighbors. It may be to the people with whom you work or go to school. It may be to your village or city. It may be to your nation or to another culture. Whether to many or few, each of us is sent by God to proclaim the truth of the gospel.

Every Tribe and Tongue

When John saw his heavenly vision, he recognized people from every tribe and tongue, gather around God's throne.

⁹ After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰ And they cried out in a loud voice:
"Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb."
Revelation 7:9-10

Much work remains to be done in order to fulfill the vision as seen by John. What is your part?

Review

Those who do not know Jesus will face judgment, condemnation and eternal separation from God. But we have been entrusted with the Gospel and are obligated to communicate God's love to all who will receive it.

Jesus' whole purpose for coming to earth as a man was to seek and save the lost. He shared not only the message of truth but also provided physical healing to all who asked. He loved people. We too are called to love people.

Many believers have laid down their life so that others could hear. Paul changed himself as a means of relating to people who were not like him. He did it so that everyone would have a chance to hear the Gospel.

Today, there are billions who have not had an opportunity to put their faith in Jesus. The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few.

Application

What has God spoken to you about in this study?

What do you think your need is?

What is it that God wants you to do?

How are you going to check-up on yourself?

**Don't Skip the
Application
Applying God's Word to
your life is the most
important part of study.**