



CGOM

Churches Of God Outreach Ministries
People working together to proclaim the Gospel

"The Churches of God Outreach Ministries provides leadership, information, and biblical teaching in spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Matthew 28:19-20"

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Mini Study

What happens to those who die 'unsaved' ?

The rest of the dead lived not until the thousand years were completed (Revelation 20:5)

Christianity claims that only through a relationship with Jesus Christ can anyone have eternal life. Excluded, therefore, would be those who lived before Jesus suffered, died and resurrected; those through the centuries since - the majority - who never came in contact with Christianity; and the couple of billion now living who haven't so much as heard of him. Yet we read that God *'is not willing that any should perish'*. In fact the eternal welfare of all these billions throughout the ages is a key part of the divine plan. All mankind of all ages will have, by the end, opportunity to *'choose life'*

- God's loving concern is for all mankind. We are created with purpose. At the heart of the divine plan is His desire to increase His Family - to transform men and women into the divine image.
- we are created with the seeds of divine character - not least being our *freedom to choose*. A devastating effect is that in general man has rejected the 'instruction manual' by which we are designed to optimally function. The consequence is poverty, squalor, disease, personal and intra-national violence, confusion in religion and in education, economics, politics. And the inevitable rejection of the true Creator God
- locked into a culture of atheism (eg China) or religion (eg Hinduism, Islam, voodoo) whole nations have excluded themselves from the divine plan. 'Christianity' is not exempt, for it has wandered far from the pathway of its Founder. Overseen by Satan, *'the god of this world'*, the world's systems have served to blind mankind to the way of the Creator (Isaiah 25:7, II Corinthians 4:4)
- scattered within the nations are individuals to whom God reveals Himself. They may be genetically disposed to listen to His invitation. They may simply be battered by life. They will not, usually, be the 'strong or noble or wise': *'...but God has chosen the world's unschooled to shame the learned, and the weak to shame the strong. God has also chosen the world's low-born and contemptibles and nobodies...'* (I Corinthians 1:26-29)
- God prepares these folk - those who respond to the invite - for leadership in His Kingdom . (Just as personnel are carefully selected for management of a multi-national.) He first draws them to Jesus Christ - and then as the Master Potter He shapes them to spiritual maturity to reign with Jesus
- but God hasn't forgotten the vast majority of mankind - the 'unsaved'. The time is coming when the prime mover of man's troubled existence - Satan - will be removed from his position of influence. For the ensuing one thousand years (the 'Millennium') the survivors of the coming holocaust and their descendants will learn to follow that Instruction Manual (Micah 4:1-7)
- but that still leaves those unsaved billions from the past. Again - not forgotten. In the divine plan they will all - after the Millennium - be returned to physical life by a resurrection from the dead. Jesus told the Jews who accosted him: *'...the time comes when all who are in the graves shall hear his voice and shall come out; those who have done good to the resurrection of life [ie, at Jesus' second coming] and those who have practiced evil for the resurrection of judgment' [ie, after the Millennium]*. At that time they will be judged by the same standards that God is applying to those He calls now . They will be able to exercise choice without the malign influences of Satan and *this world*

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