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**What Does the Bible Teach About:
The Eternal Status of the "Aborigine" Who Dies Never Having Heard the Gospel**

**Being careful not to put words in God's mouth, we know the following truths from the Scriptures:*

I. God is good and can be trusted

A. "God is not a man, that he should lie, nor a son of man, that he should change his mind. Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfill?" Num. 23:19

B. "This is what the Lord says: Let not the wise man boast of his wisdom or the strong man boast of his strength or the rich man boast of his riches, but let him who boasts boast about this: that he understands and knows me, that I am the Lord, who exercises kindness, justice, and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight, declares the Lord." Jer. 9:23-24

II. God loves human beings and wants them to share intimate fellowship with Him forever

A. "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him." John 3:16-17

B. "This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all men--the testimony given in its proper time." 1 Tim. 2:3-6

III. All human beings are sinful and separated from God, so on our own we cannot know Him personally or experience His love and eternal life

A. "All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away. No one calls on your name or strives to lay hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us and made us waste away because of our sins." Is. 64:6-7

B. ". . . for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God," Rom. 3:23

IV. The consequences of sin is death

A. "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." Rom. 6:23

B. "He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of His power. . . ." 2 Thess. 1:8-9

V. God has clearly revealed himself to mankind through the creation

A. "The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge. There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard." Ps. 19:1

B. "The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation

of the world God's invisible qualities--his eternal power and divine nature--have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse." Rom. 1:18-20

VI. As narrow as it may sound, the Bible teaches that there is only one way to obtain eternal life

A. "Jesus answered, I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." John 14:6

B. ". . . It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. He is the stone you builders rejected, which has become the capstone. Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved." Acts 4:10-12

C. "Therefore no one will be declared righteous in His sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin. But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference," Rom. 3:20-22

VII. Our understanding of these truths should produce in our souls an incredible urgency to take the good news of God's grace in Jesus Christ to the lost everywhere on the face of the earth

A. "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matt. 28: 19-20

B. "We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ. To this end I labor, struggling with all his energy, which so powerfully works in me." Col. 1:28-29

**Note - God can obviously communicate the Gospel of Jesus Christ to a specific person in any manner He so chooses (ie. through visions, dreams, angels, the constellations, etc.); however, it appears that His most often used method is the proclamation of His Word by one human being to another. "Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ." Rom. 10:17*

VIII. Conclusion --- Regarding sin and its consequences, all men are without excuse. Our condemnation is based not on our rejecting a "law" or a "Christ" of which we have not heard, but on our sinning against the light that we have received. The solution to our problem is Jesus--and only Jesus

A. "Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him." John 3:36

B. "For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified." Rom. 8:29-30

