

MILLIONS LEFT OUT?

What a sad state of affairs it would be if only those who heard and obeyed the gospel would occupy eternal heaven! And what an unfair system of salvation it would be if untold billions, or even one person for that matter, were to suffer eternal damnation for no other reason than that no one got to them with the gospel! And yet there are millions here in America and other places who hold to just such an idea. It is indeed a marvel that so many have adopted this notion, apparently without giving any real thought to its ultimate deplorable repercussions.

Predicating eternal salvation upon hearing and obeying the gospel would automatically consign the overwhelming majority of mankind to eternal woe and torment. Even among those who have heard some form of so-called "gospel" only a tiny fraction have heard the *true* gospel of Christ, and of that fraction only a few have obeyed it. Oh how small would the family of God be under such a system! It would be about like the man I heard of who said, "There won't be anybody in heaven but me and my wife, and sometimes I'm not too sure about *her*."

How good it is to know that eternal salvation is truly by grace and not according to any works of men; to know that all the Father gave to the Son will come to Him and that none of them will be finally and eternally cast out (See John 6:37-39). For just one of God's people to fail to reach heaven would be for the covenant of grace to be made null and void and the promise of God to fail, and that cannot happen.

---Elder Ralph Harris