

He said, "While the child was still alive, I fasted and wept, for I said, 'Who knows whether the Lord will be gracious to me, that the child may live?' But now he is dead. Why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he will not return to me." 2 Samuel 12:22–23 (ESV)

## When is someone old enough to hear?

So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin. James 4:17 (ESV)

## What do I need to remember?

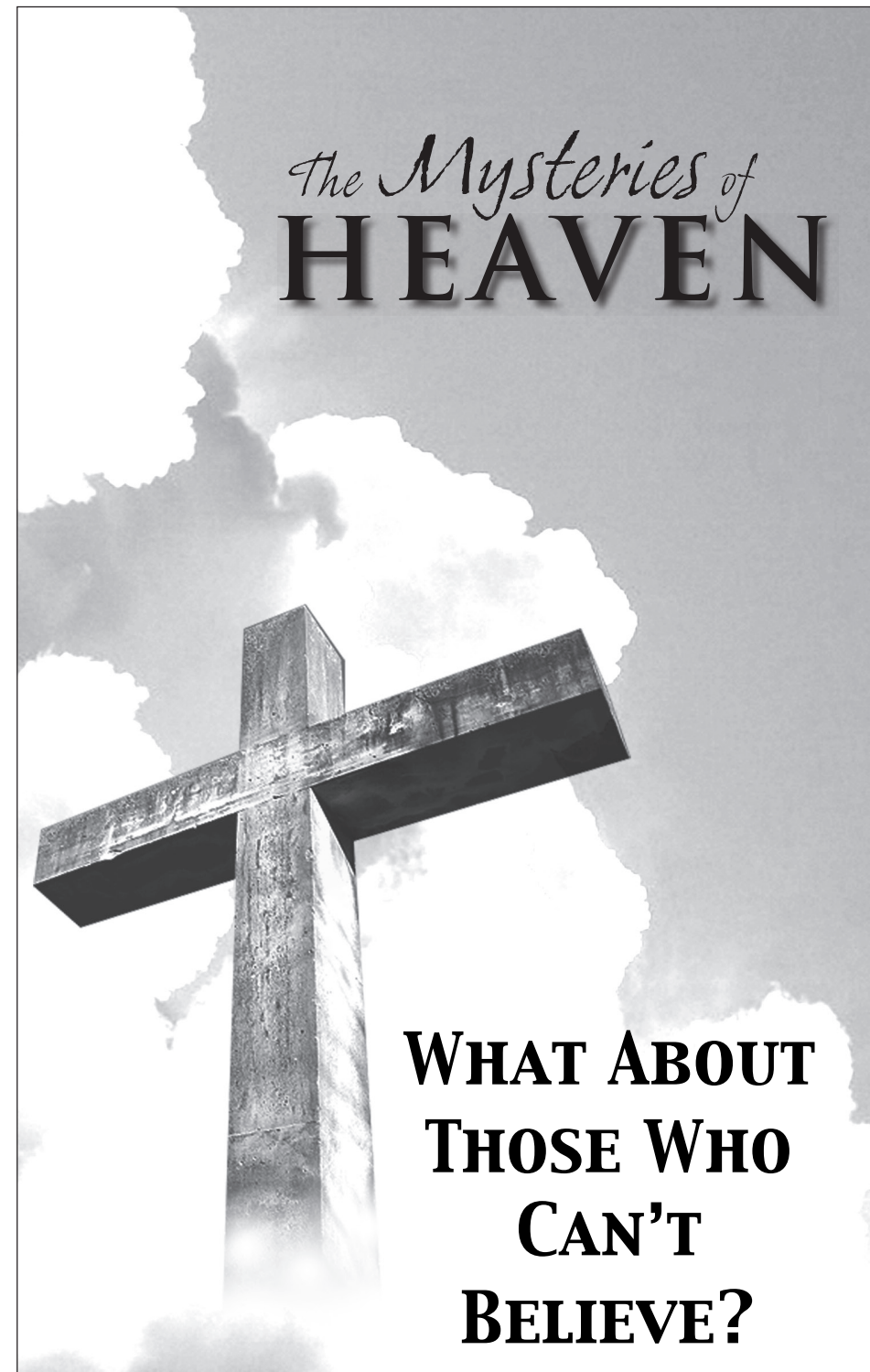
- Those who die apart from Christ perish, no matter where they live.
- The proclamation of the gospel is the only means God uses to bring people into saving faith.
- The Scriptures hint that those who are too immature to reject God in nature and conscience are saved as a special act of God through Christ.

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Want To Learn More? This handout, small group questions, sermon manuscript and the audio files of the sermon are available at:

[www.faithfree.com](http://www.faithfree.com) or [www.christ2rculture.com](http://www.christ2rculture.com)

Next Week: Overcoming Grief - Comfort for those left behind  
Two Weeks: Questions about heaven



# Faith Evangelical Free Church

August 1, 2010

## What about those who can't believe?

- For those who have never heard the message of Jesus Christ, how does it work if they never even had a chance? Will they go to hell for eternity just because of where they lived? - *What about those who can't believe because they never heard?*
- What about aborted babies or miscarriages? What about the severely mentally handicapped - *What about those who can't believe because they were never old enough to hear the message and believe?*
- Is the age of accountability such that, for example, 11 years, 3 months, 25 days and 56.67892 seconds. Before that they went to heaven. After that they go to hell? - *(That is my favorite question in the bunch.) Is there an age of accountability?*

## What about those who never heard?

### The universal problem is sin.

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,  
Romans 3:23 (ESV)

but your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear. Isaiah 59:2 (ESV)

### The universal solution is Jesus.

For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, 1 Timothy 2:5 (ESV)

## God can save infants before birth.

he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. Luke 1:15 (ESV)

Yet you are he who took me from the womb; you made me trust you at my mother's breasts. On you was I cast from my birth, and from my mother's womb you have been my God. Psalm 22:9-10 (ESV)

## Inability to reject God through nature and conscience appears to make a difference.

For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. Romans 1:20 (ESV)

## The example of David's two sons

And the king was deeply moved and went up to the chamber over the gate and wept. And as he went, he said, "O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! Would I had died instead of you, O Absalom, my son, my son!" 2 Samuel 18:33 (ESV)

It is not that God chooses someone to salvation because they are going to die in infancy. Rather, He has ordained that only those who have been chosen for salvation will be allowed to die in infancy. God's justice in condemnation will be most clearly seen by allowing those who will not be saved to demonstrate their inherent sinfulness through willful, knowing transgression.

-Charles Spurgeon

And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.” Acts 4:12 (ESV)

And they sang a new song, saying, “Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth.” Revelation 5:9–10 (ESV)

## **Everyone knowingly and willingly sins against God.**

For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. Romans 1:20 (ESV)

For when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus. Romans 2:14–16 (ESV)

## **Apart from Christ, everyone will be justly punished in Hell.**

And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done. Revelation 20:12 (ESV)

## **Can anyone be saved without literally hearing the Gospel?**

a devout man who feared God with all his household, gave alms generously to the people, and prayed continually to God. Acts 10:2

And he told us how he had seen the angel stand in his house and say, ‘Send to Joppa and bring Simon who is called Peter; he will declare to you a message by which you will be saved, you and all your household.’ Acts 11:13–14 (ESV)

For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!” Romans 10:13–15 (ESV)

## **What about those who can’t hear?**

### **All infants are sinful.**

Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me. Psalm 51:5 (ESV)



...But sin is not taken into account when there is no law. Nevertheless, death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, even over those who did not sin by breaking a command, as did Adam,... Romans 5:13–14 (NIV)