



SUNGAI WAY-SUBANG
METHODIST CHURCH



*What About
Those Who Have
Not Heard?*

SERMON

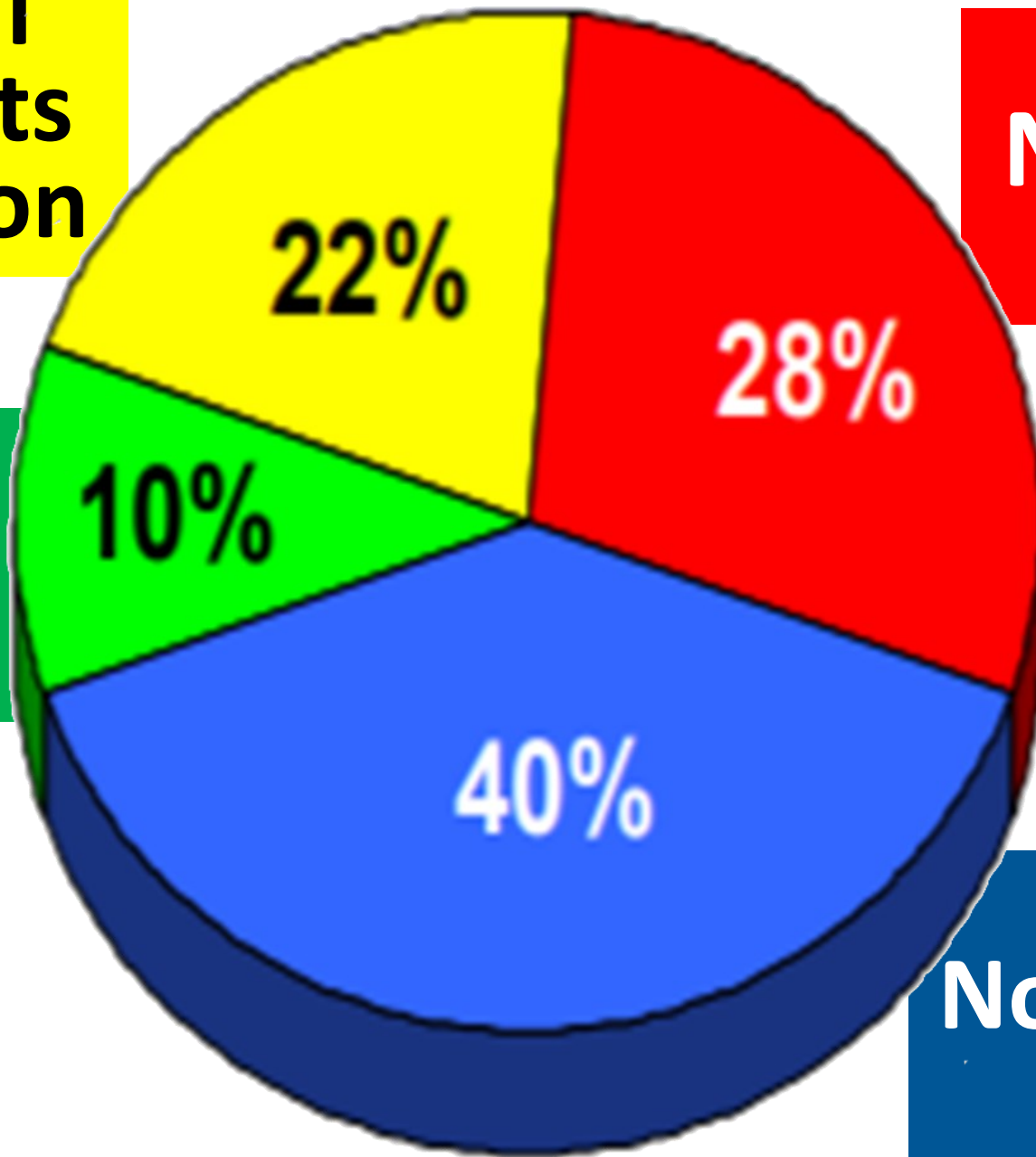
REV DR NG SWEE MING
5 SEPTEMBER 2021

**Nominal
Adherents
1.72 billion**

**Virtually
No Exposure
2.18 billion**

**Christ
Followers
0.78 billion**

**World Pop:
7.8 billion**



**Heard,
Not Responded
3.12 billion**

*What About Those Who
Have Not Heard?*



so...What About Those Who Have Not Heard?

This Question have been asked many times before

will be asked again and again

by Non-Christians

and also by Christians ...

It is a very emotional question



so...What About Those Who Have Not Heard?

Assumptions seems to be

- ⇒ That people are basically “good and innocent”**
- ⇒ Unfair if they were never given the opportunity to hear or to know**
- ⇒ To be sent to eternal condemnation in hell**



**NOT
FAIR!**



so...What About Those Who Have Not Heard?

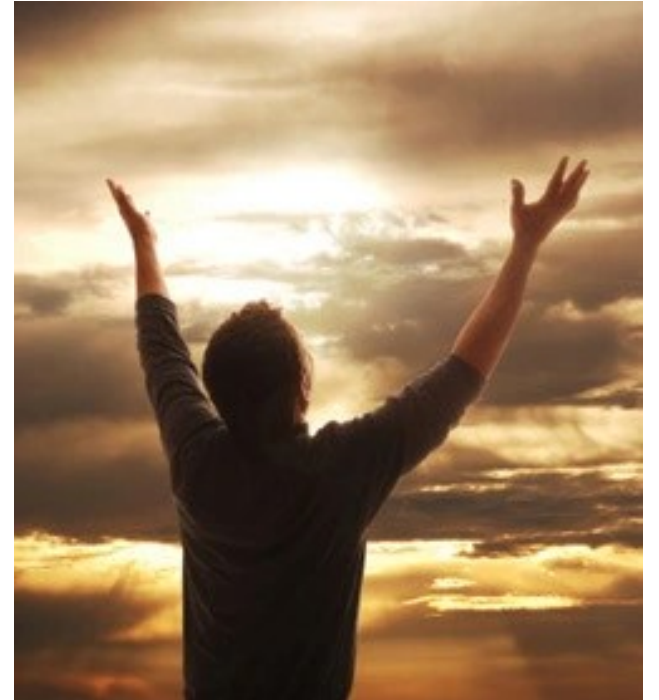
Think of someone you know personally who is NOT YET A CHRISTIAN....

Scenario A :

- **Actively seeking after 'God' ?**

Scenario B :

- **Apathetic, even Hostile towards 'God' ?**



What About Those Who Have Not Heard?

Possible Reasons why this question is asked...

- 1. How can a Loving God sent “innocent” people to hell**
- 2. Know of very ‘good’, ‘law abiding’, ‘upright’ family members, friends, colleagues who just refuse to believe**
- 3. If those people can go to heaven, so can I ...**
- 4. Ask questions that baffle Christians**
- 5. Truly concerned about the ‘lost’**



ROMANS

Rom 1:18-23

¹⁸ The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, ¹⁹ since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. ²⁰ 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.

²¹ For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²² Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools ²³ and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles.

What About Those Who Have Not Heard?

**Need to set some
basic parameters**

1. God's Character or Attributes

- **HOLY**
- **JUST**



What Can You Know ...?



What Can You Know ...?



What Can You Know ...?



What Can You Know ...?



What Can You Know ...?



What About Those Who Have Not Heard?

Need to set some basic parameters

2. God Has Revealed Himself

a. General Revelation

➤ **CREATION**

v20 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





What About Those Who Have Not Heard?

Need to set some basic parameters

2. God Has Revealed Himself ...

a. General Revelation

➤ **CREATION**

➤ **CONSCIENCE**

↪ **That 'still small voice'**

↪ **It is God given ...**

↪ **Everyone has it ...**

↪ **Moral Compass**



What About Those Who Have Not Heard?

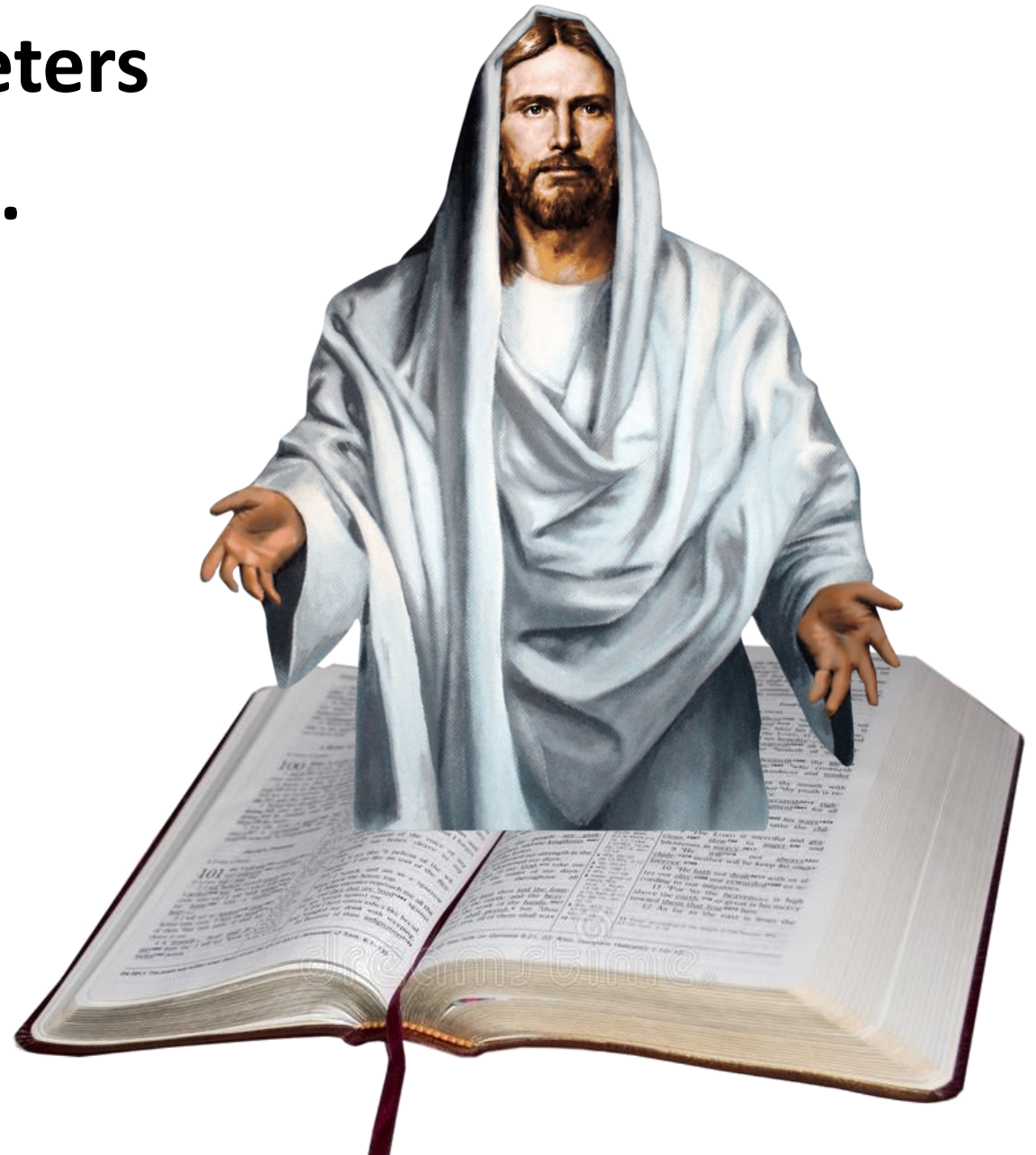
Need to set some basic parameters

2. God Has Revealed Himself

a. General Revelation

b. Special Revelation

- **JESUS CHRIST**
- **HIS WORD – THE BIBLE**



What About Those Who Have Not Heard?

Need to set some basic parameters

3. SIN

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

We are not sinners because we sin; rather, we sin because by nature we are sinners.



Steven J Cole

What About Those Who Have Not Heard?

Need to set some basic parameters

4. JESUS THE ONLY WAY

Jesus declared it :

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

Peter declared it :

Acts 4:12 "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."

Paul declared it :

1 Tim 2:5 "For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,"



What About Those Who Have Not Heard?

Need to set some basic parameters

4. JESUS THE ONLY WAY

Why is this important ??

Because IF JESUS IS NOT THE ONLY WAY



What About Those Who Have Not Heard?

Need to set some basic parameters

4. JESUS THE ONLY WAY

Why is this important ??

Because IF JESUS IS NOT THE ONLY WAY

- then it will not matter if people have not heard the Gospel or not ...
- If you miss the “Jesus Way” you can always take the “other way or ways” ...



What About Those Who Have Not Heard?

Need to set some basic parameters

4. JESUS THE ONLY WAY

Why is this important ??

Because IF JESUS IS NOT THE ONLY WAY

- then it will not matter if people have not heard the Gospel or not ...
- If you miss the “Jesus Way” you can always take the “other way or ways” ...

BUT as CHRISTIANS

we declare that JESUS is the **ONLY WAY**



What About Those Who Have Not Heard?

GOD is HOLY & JUST

GOD REVEALING HIMSELF

What About Those Who Have Not Heard?

JESUS THE ONLY WAY

SIN

What About Those Who Have Not Heard?

GOD is HOLY & JUST

1. CREATION - there is a "GOD" ...

Rom 1:19-20

¹⁹ since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them.

²⁰ 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...

SIN

GOD REVEALING HIMSELF

JESUS THE ONLY WAY

What About Those Who Have Not Heard?

GOD is HOLY & JUST

1. CREATION - there is a "GOD" ...

Knowing there is a "GOD"

- **What did they do ?**
- **How did they respond ?**

↪ **Rom 1:18b**

who suppress the truth ...



GOD REVEALING HIMSELF

JESUS THE ONLY WAY

SIN

What About Those Who Have Not Heard?

GOD is HOLY & JUST

GOD REVEALING HIMSELF

JESUS THE ONLY WAY

1. CREATION - there is a "GOD" ...

Knowing there is a "GOD"

How else did they respond ?

Rom 1:21-23 *For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles.*

 **IDOLATRY ...**

SIN

What About Those Who Have Not Heard?

GOD is HOLY & JUST

GOD REVEALING HIMSELF

JESUS THE ONLY WAY

1. CREATION - there is a "GOD" ...
Knowing there is a "GOD"
How else did they respond ?

Rom 1:21-23 For although they knew God, they did not glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made like mortal man and birds and animals.



↪ IDOLATRY ...

IDOLATRY

SIN

What About Those Who Have Not Heard?

GOD is HOLY & JUST

2. CONSCIENCE – There is a “GOD Standard”

Rom 2:13 For it is not those who hear the law who are righteous in God's sight, but it is those who obey the law ^(v¹⁵ written on their hearts) who will be declared righteous.



GOD REVEALING HIMSELF

JESUS THE ONLY WAY

SIN

What About Those Who Have Not Heard?

GOD is HOLY & JUST

2. CONSCIENCE – There is a “GOD Standard”

Rom 2:14-15

Indeed, when Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law, since they show that

the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts now accusing, now even defending them.



GOD REVEALING HIMSELF

JESUS THE ONLY WAY

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What About Those Who Have Not Heard?

GOD is HOLY & JUST

2. CONSCIENCE – There is a “GOD Standard”

Rom 2:16

This will take place on the day when God will judge men's secrets through Jesus Christ, as my gospel declares.

CONSCIENCE - God's Instrument of Judgment



GOD REVEALING HIMSELF

JESUS THE ONLY WAY

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What About Those Who Have Not Heard?

GOD is HOLY & JUST

conclusion no 1 :

NO ONE CAN CLAIM THEY

• HAVE NOT HEARD

• DO NOT KNOW

SIN

GOD REVEALING HIMSELF

JESUS THE ONLY WAY

What About Those Who Have Not Heard?

GOD is HOLY & JUST

3. CHARACTER - 'People' are naturally Good & Innocent !

- That's the assumption made

↳ People do not deserve to go to Hell ...

↳ People must have

↳ the right to choose ...

↳ The right to decide ...

Q: Is this Assumption True ?

Q: Is this Assumption Right ?



**Built on the foundational belief
that **man is basically
good.****

GOD REVEALING HIMSELF

JESUS THE ONLY WAY

SIN

What About Those Who Have Not Heard?

GOD is HOLY & JUST

3. CHARACTER - 'People' are naturally Good & Innocent !

Rom 3:10-18

*"There is **no one righteous, not even one**; there is no one who understands, **no one who seeks God**. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is **no one who does good, not even one**." "Their throats are open graves; their tongues practice deceit." "The poison of vipers is on their lips."*

"Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness." "Their feet are swift to shed blood; ruin and misery mark their ways, and the way of peace they do not know."

*"There is **no fear of God** before their eyes."*

SIN

What About Those Who Have Not Heard?

GOD is HOLY & JUST

3. CHARACTER - 'People' are naturally Good & Innocent!

Rom 3:20 *Therefore no one will be declared righteous in His sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin.*

Rom 3:23 *for ALL HAVE SINNED and fall short of the glory of God,*

Bible is very clear

- **Man are 'born' sinners since Adam ... NOT born Good & Innocent but by nature are sinners ...**



GOD REVEALING HIMSELF

JESUS THE ONLY WAY

SIN

What About Those Who Have Not Heard?

GOD is HOLY & JUST

**conclusion no 2 :
All Have Sinned
All Deserve Hell**

GOD REVEALING HIMSELF

JESUS THE ONLY WAY

SIN

What About Those Who Have Not Heard?

GOD is HOLY & JUST

GOD REVEALING HIMSELF

JESUS THE ONLY WAY

4. CONVERSELY

Let's just imagine as many would like to

↪ That all who have not heard ...

↪ Just because they have not heard ...

↪ Should go NOT TO HELL

↪ but straight TO HEAVEN !

What are the CONSEQUENCES ?



SIN

What About Those Who Have Not Heard?

GOD is HOLY & JUST

4. CONVERSELY

What are the CONSEQUENCES ?

- i. If I DO NOT HEAR -> HEAVEN
- ii. If I DO HEAR & BELIEVE -> HEAVEN
- iii. If I DO HEAR & NOT BELIEVE -> HELL



Q: What is wrong with this ?

Q: What is the obvious inference ?

That We Better Make Sure That No One Hears ...

a) The GREAT COMMISSION becomes the GREAT DISFAVOR

GOD REVEALING HIMSELF

JESUS THE ONLY WAY

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What About Those Who Have Not Heard?

GOD is HOLY & JUST

4. CONVERSELY

What are the CONSEQUENCES ?

- i. If I DO NOT HEAR -> HEAVEN**
- ii. If I DO HEAR & BELIEVE -> HEAVEN**
- iii. If I DO HEAR & NOT BELIEVE -> HELL**



Q: What is wrong with this ?

Q: What is the obvious inference ?

- a) The GREAT COMMISSION becomes the GREAT DISFAVOR**
- b) That Jesus Christ DIED & RESURRECTED IN VAIN**

GOD REVEALING HIMSELF

JESUS THE ONLY WAY

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What About Those Who Have Not Heard?

GOD is HOLY & JUST

conclusion no 3 :
IT IS ILLOGICAL
IT IS UNTENABLE

GOD REVEALING HIMSELF

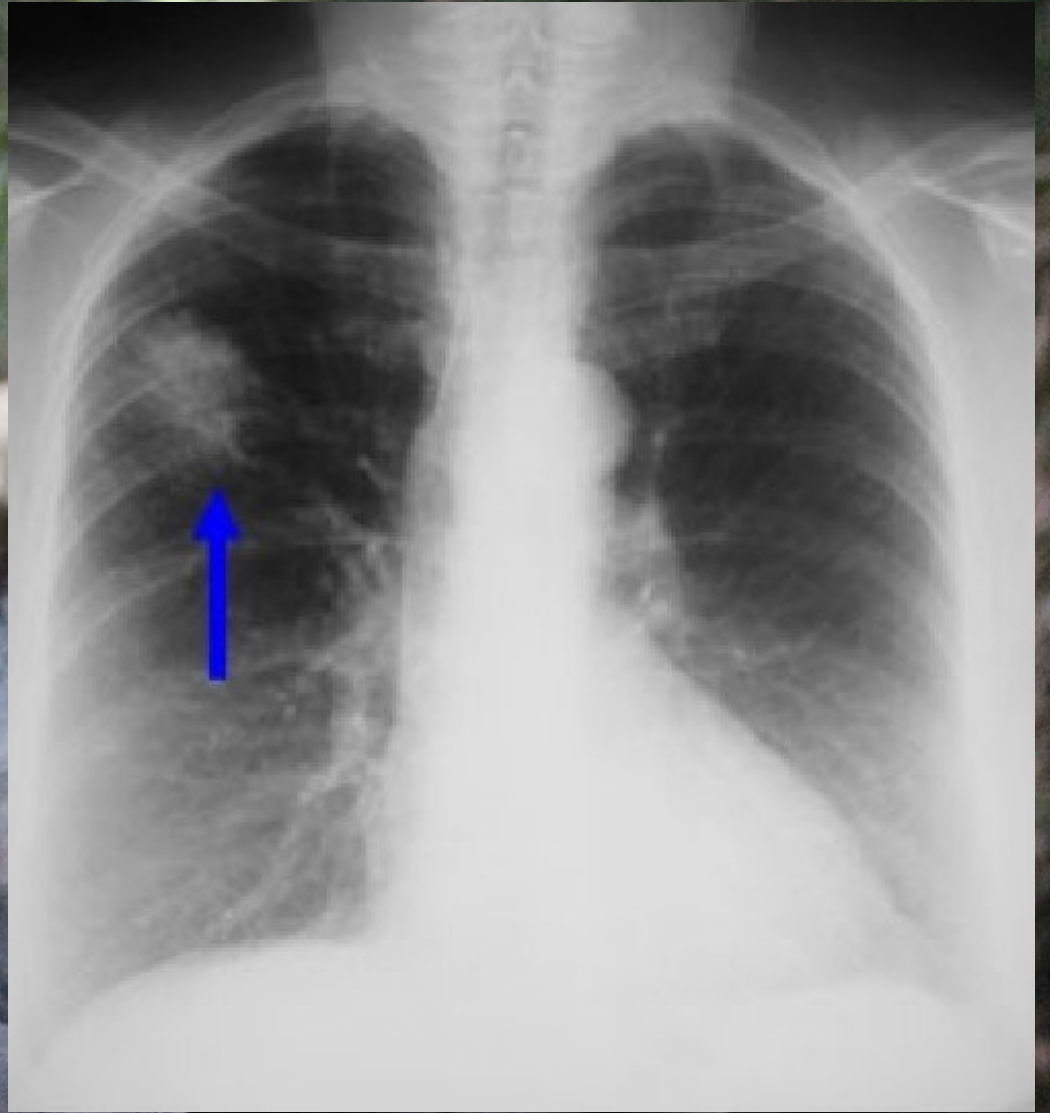
JESUS THE ONLY WAY

SIN

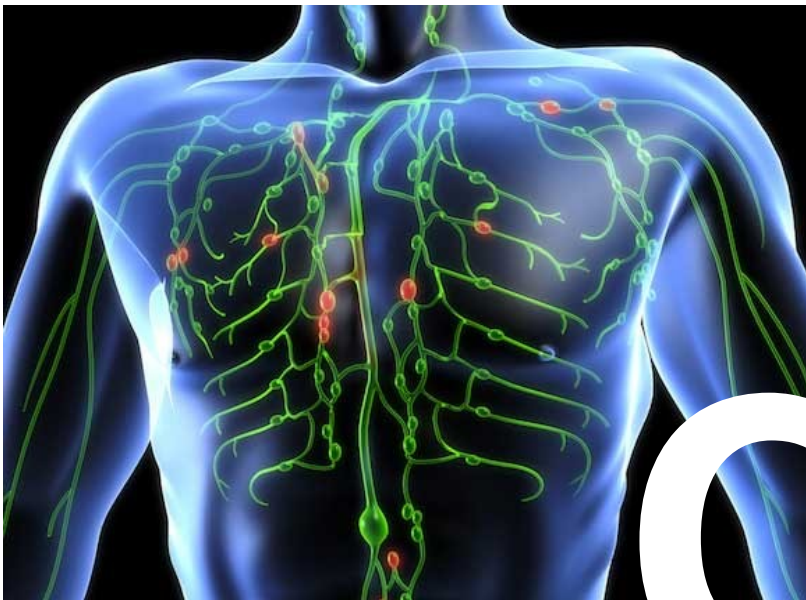


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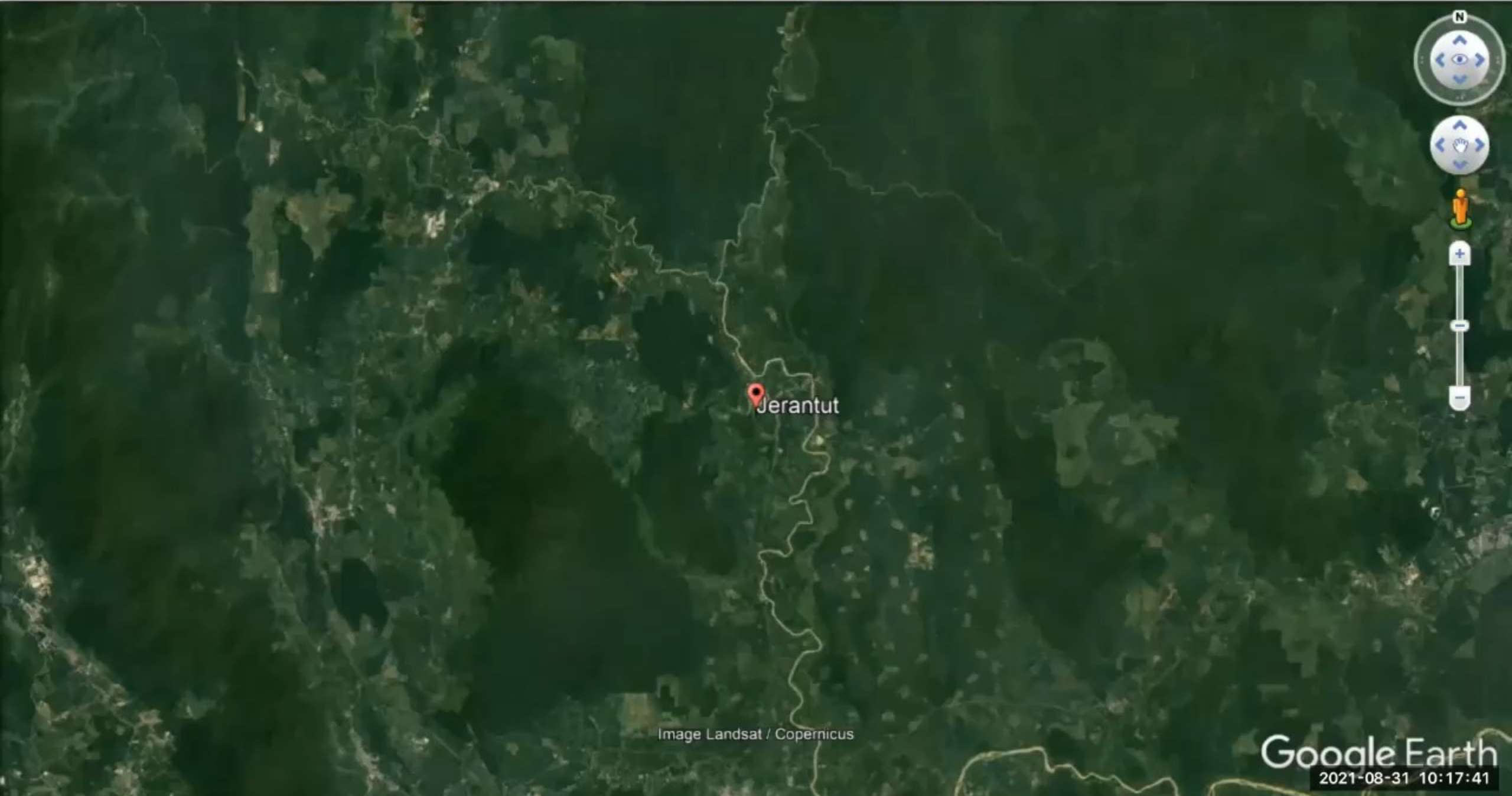
Meet Pak Adil



What About Those Who Have Not Heard?



Cancer

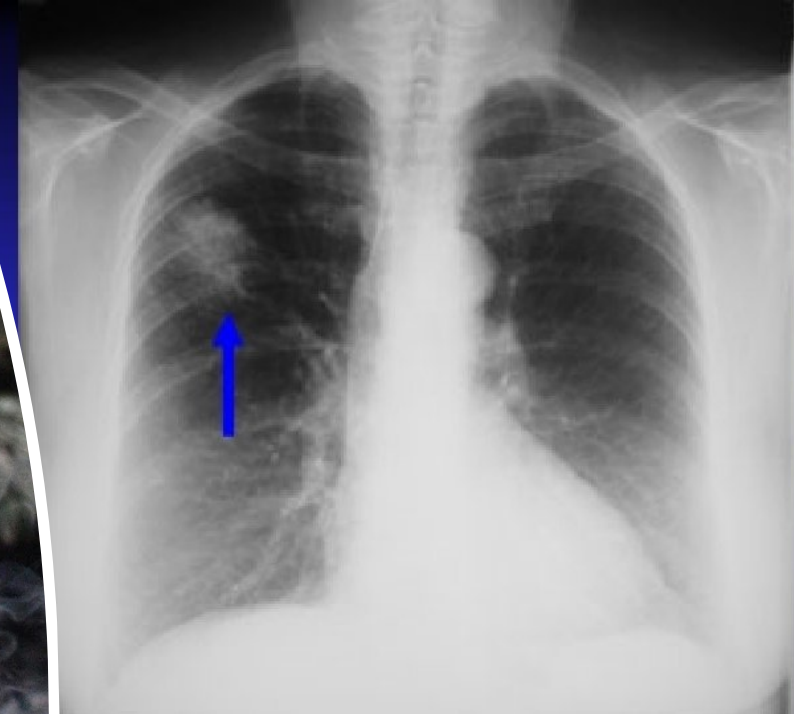


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Image Landsat / Copernicus

—

“Targeted Immuno- Therapy”



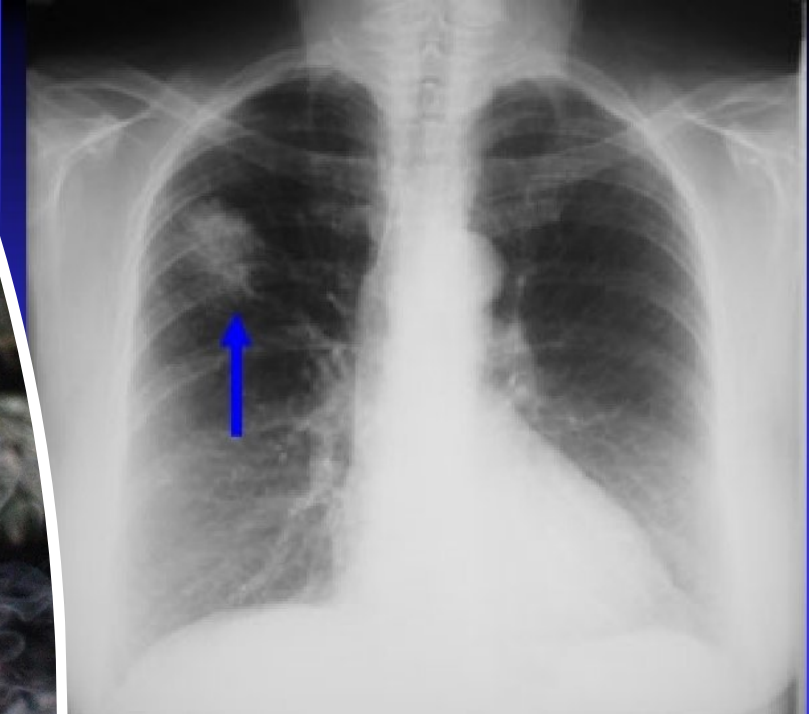
Q: Why did Pak Adil die ?

A: He died because he had lung cancer ...

Not because ...

- **NO ONE** told him about the cure ...
- **he did not get the cure ...**

Similarly



Q: Why did Pak Adil die ?

A: He died because he had lung cancer ...

Not because ...

- NO ONE told him about the cure ...**
- he did not get the**

cure ...

Similarly



*What About Those Who
Have Not Heard?*

You & I

HAVE the CURE

KNOW the CURE

**Q: What are we
doing about it ?**



What About Those Who Have Not Heard?

GOD is HOLY & JUST

CONCLUSION

What did God Do ?

- **God did not have to do anything ...**
- **God just 'STOP DOING' ...**

↪ Rom 1:24 **God gave them over** in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another.

↪ Rom 1:26 **God gave them over** to shameful lusts.

↪ Rom 1:28 **He gave them over** to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done.

GOD REVEALING HIMSELF

JESUS THE ONLY WAY

SIN

What About Those Who Have Not Heard?

So, what now

For those who ask just for 'fun'

The answer

↪ is very sobering ...

↪ no laughing matter ...

❖ No room to be wrong

1 Tim 2:3-4

*"...God our Savior,...
wants all men to be
saved and to come to a
knowledge of the truth."*

2 Peter 3:9b

*God is patient with you,
not wanting anyone to
perish, but everyone to
come to repentance.*

What About Those Who Have Not Heard?

So, what now

**For those who ask because
they truly want to know
the 'answer'**

Now knowing the answer ...

**What are you going to do
about it ??**

What is that ONE THING

Great Commission to GO ...

Rom 10:14-15

*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?*

*And how can they preach unless
they are sent?*

*As it is written, "How beautiful are
the feet of those who bring good
news!"*

What About Those Who Have Not Heard?

This RM100



**I can give to whoever I want ...
and nobody can / should complain that I am unfair ...**

What About Those Who Have Not Heard?

Similarly ...

Heaven, God's Dwelling place belongs to God



**God alone decides who gets in
and nobody can / should complain if they do not get in ...**



*What About Those Who
Have Not Heard?*
**NOW YOU KNOW
WHAT ARE YOU DOING
ABOUT IT ?**