

human beings. This interpretation explains the troublesome statement in verse 4 that "their voice is not being heard" (i.e., with the human ear, as ordinary voices are heard), and at the same time reconciles the statement in verse 4 that "there is no speech and there are no words," and the statements in verses 3 and 5 that there is speech (truth about God is being communicated) and there are words (genuine meaning-content is being conveyed).

But does it make any difference which interpretation we choose? Does it really matter whether the "voice" of general revelation is or is not being heard? Does it make any difference whether or not human beings apprehend and perceive the external general revelation? It may make a difference in the way this passage "fits" or does not "fit" with other pertinent passages. And it may make a significant difference in regard to the application of this passage to both pre-evangelism and unregenerate man's responsibility.

In any case, more data are needed!

However, in passing let us note a poem written by Joseph Addison (A. D. 1672-1719), which was published in *The Spectator*, No. 465 - a poem that beautifully captures the second interpretation. Incidentally, this poem was later made into a hymn. Addison wrote:

The spacious firmament on high,
With all the blue, ethereal sky,
And spangled heavens, a shining frame,
Their great Original proclaim:
Th' unwearied sun, from day to day,
Does his Creator's power display;
And publishes to every land
The work of an almighty hand.

Soon as the evening shades prevail,
The moon takes up the wondrous tale;
And nightly, to the listening earth,
Repeats the story of her birth;
While all the stars that round her burn,
And all the planets in their turn,
Confirm the tidings as they roll,
And spread the truth from pole to pole.

What though, in solemn silence, all
Move round this dark terrestrial ball?
What though no real voice nor sound
Amid their radiant orbs be found?
In reason's ear they all rejoice,
And utter forth a glorious voice,
Forever singing as they shine,
"The hand that made us is divine."