



5. And The Question Is:
- Since - Both Gentiles & Jews:
    - Rejected The Light:
      - Given To Them By God:
        - Then - Was There Something “Better” That God Saw In *Us*:
          - That Caused *Us* - To Respond & Believe?
  - Paul Answers This Question:
    - With Another Emphatic:
      - No! “In No Wise!”
        - Because - Just As He Had Already Proven:
          - In Chapters 1-3 - “Both Jews and Gentiles – are ***all under sin!***”
    - And This Truth:
      - Applies To Everyone!
        - Because You Are Either One Or The Other, Even If:
          - You Are A Christian!
6. And So - Paul Is Going To Remind *All* Of Us:
- Of Just Who We Are:
    - Apart From God:
      - And Apart From The Gospel!
        - Of Our & Your - True Nature!
  - “All Under Sin!”
    - **IE**: Its Like Being A Prisoner In The Middle Ages - And Being Thrown Into The Lowest Dungeon Of The Castle! I Got A Taste Of What This Might Have Been Like - When My Wife & I Visited The Old Mamertine Prison In Rome - Where Tradition Has It That Both Peter & Paul Were Thrown Into This Underground Prison Before They Were Executed As Martyrs For Christ! The Entrance To The Original Dungeon Was Small Hole In The Ground. It Would Have Been A Dark, Dirty, And Foul Place!
      - Well - As Paul Is About To Tell Us:
        - Apart From God’s Grace & Intervention In Our Lives:
          - We Are “All Under Sin!” We Are All In This Dungeon Of Our Own Depravity!
    - And This Is What It’s Like!
      - 3:10-18 - “As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: / There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. / They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one. / Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips: / Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness: / Their feet are swift to shed blood: / Destruction and misery are in their ways: / And the way of peace have they not known: / There is no fear of God before their eyes!”
    - This Is Your True Nature!
      - This Is Your True Condition!
        - This Is Your True Prison:
          - Apart From God!
      - And - As We Just Read From 3:10-12:

1. ***The Dungeon Of Your Sin Is Very, Very Deep!***

    - **IE**: Have You Ever Taken A Step - Off A Ladder Or Off A Ledge - And You Didn’t Know Exactly Where The Ground Was? It Is Quite An Unnerving Feeling, Isn’t It? Well - As Paul Just Described It For Us - The Dungeon Of Sin Is Practically Bottomless! And That Should Be Unnerving To Every Sinner!
      - Because - After Paul Makes The Charge:
        - In 3:9 - He Then Uses God’s Own Words:
          - To Make The Case:
            - That We Have Completely Fallen:
              - Into The Dungeon Of Sin - And We Can’t Get Out!
      - And So - The Question:
        - Paul Wants To Answer For Us Is This:
          - When Adam Sinned - As Our Representative In The Garden Of Eden:
            - How Far Did He Fall?
        - And The Answer?
          - When Adam Fell, We Fell! And - *As* Adam Fell, We Fell! And - How Far Did Adam Fall?

- All The Way! And So Did We!
- We Fell - All The Way!
- Beginning In 3:10 - We See That:
  - I Am / You Are / We All Are:
- Completely Fallen:
  - In Our Purity Before God!
    - 3:10 - “As it is written, There Is None Righteous, No, Not One!”
    - This Is Paul’s Summary:
      - Of God’s Case Against Us!
  - And - Since God Is All-Knowing:
    - His Case Against Us:
      - Is Air-Tight!
    - There Is Not A Single Person:
      - Who Meets The Standard Of God’s Perfect Righteousness & Holiness!
  - The Doctrine This Passage Teaches Is:
    - The Doctrine Of Total Depravity!
      - That - We Are Completely & Entirely Corrupt And “Under” The Bondage Of “Sin!”
  - Now - This Does Not Mean:
    - That Every Person Is As Bad & As Evil As They Can Be!
      - Not Yet, At Least!
  - But It Does Mean:
    - That Any “Goodness” You Think You Might Have:
      - Is Still So Bound By Sin, That It Can Never Measure Up To The Standard Of God’s Righteousness!
  - As Isaiah 64:6 Puts It - “But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags!”
    - And So - We All Deserve:
      - The Just Judgment:
        - And Eternal Wrath:
          - Of God!
  - 3:10 - “There Is None Righteous, No, Not One!”
    - But - That’s Not All!
      - The Dungeon Of Depravity:
        - Goes Even Deeper!
          - We Are All:
- Completely Fallen:
  - In Our Perception About God!
    - In 3:11 - Paul Refers To Psalm 14:2 - Where It Says - “The LORD looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, and seek God!”
      - And What Did God Find? 3:11 - “There Is None That Understandeth!”
  - This Means - Even Though God Gave Us:
    - Our Senses - By Which:
      - We Could Explore His Creation & Learn More About Him As The Creator:
        - We Became Senseless!
  - You May Still Be Able To:
    - See With Your Eyes & Hear With Your Ears:
      - Taste With Your Tongue & Even Feel With Your Fingers!
  - But Your Sin Prevents You From:
    - Seeing God & His Glory! And:
    - Hearing God Through His Word! And:
    - Tasting His Grace & Goodness! As Well As:
    - Feeling His Mercy & Love!
  - 3:11 - “There Is None That Understandeth!”
    - But - The Dungeon Of Depravity:
      - Is Even Deeper!
        - We Are All:
- Completely Fallen:
  - In Our Pursuit After God!
    - In 3:11 - Paul Adds - “There Is None That Seeketh After God!”

- There Are Many Times In The Bible:
  - When God Calls Out To Us:
    - To Seek Him!
    - In Deuteronomy 4:29 - We Are Told - "But if from thence thou shalt seek the LORD thy God, thou shalt find him, if thou seek him with all thy heart and with all thy soul!"
  - But - Just Because God Calls Us:
    - Doesn't Mean We Can Answer His Call:
      - On Our Own!
- Because - In Your Natural Condition:
  - You **Don't** Seek Him!
  - You **Can't** Seek Him!
    - And - You **Won't!**
  - "There Is None That Seeketh After God!"
    - So - Instead Of Seeking God:
      - With The Light He Has Given Us:
        - What Do We Do?
      - As We Learned In 1:23 - We Change / Exchange - "The glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things!"
    - And - Instead Of Pursuing God:
      - We Give Him A Pass!
        - Instead Of Reaching Out To Him:
          - We Replace Him!
      - Every Man! Every Time!
        - When You Are Left To Yourself!
  - "There Is None That Seeketh After God!"
    - But Our Dungeon Goes Even Deeper!
      - We Are:
- Completely Fallen:
  - In Our Path To God!
    - In 3:12 - Paul Quotes From The Old Greek Translation Of Psalm 14:3 - "They Are All Gone Out Of The Way!"
  - When God Led The Children Of Israel:
    - Out Of Egypt - And Toward The Promised Land:
      - We Read Of Their Response:
        - In Exodus 32:8 - "They Have Turned Aside Quickly Out Of The Way Which I Commanded!"
      - This Is What Our Fallen Nature Is Like!
    - Without The Intervention Of God:
      - We Will Keep Acting Like The Sheep:
        - Of Isaiah 53:6 - "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way!"
    - And How Does The Path Of Sin:
      - Work Out For You?
        - But - The Dungeon Keeps Getting Deeper:
          - Because - "A Wayward Life Is A Wasted Life!" - And We Are:
  - Completely Fallen:
    - In Our Purpose From God!
      - 3:12b - "They Are Together Become Unprofitable!"
        - "Unprofitable" Here Means "Useless!"
          - What A Sad Testimony About The Condition Of A Sinners Life!
          - Useless!
      - Reminds Me Of What Jesus Taught:
        - In Matthew 16:26 - "For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?"
          - But - Have We Gotten To The Bottom Of This Dungeon Of Depravity That We're In?
            - Not Yet! Because It Goes Deeper Still! Because We Are:
    - Completely Fallen:

- In Our Practices Before God!
  - 3:12c - “There Is None That Doeth Good, No, Not One!”
  - This Is A Very Offensive Truth!
  - But - It Is True - Nonetheless!
- Because - Nothing You **Are**:
  - Nothing You **Have**:
    - And - Nothing You **Do**:
      - Is Truly Good!
  - In Romans 7:18 - Paul Wrote:
    - “For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing!”
    - And - Apart From Jesus Christ - The Flesh Is All You Have!
- And So - The Dungeon Is Even Deeper!
  - We Are **Totally** Fallen!
    - We Are **Totally** Depraved!
      - This Is Your Heart:
        - As God Sees It!
  - We Are “**All Under Sin!**”
    - Now - This Is A Very Bleak & Dismal Picture:
      - Of Our Condition!
        - But - Unfortunately - It Doesn’t Get Any Better In 3:13-14 - Where Paul Quotes 3 More Verses From The Psalms - To Show Us That:

## 2. ***The Dungeon Of Your Sin Is Very, Very Dark!***

- **IE**: Have You Ever Been In A Cave When It Was Completely Dark? Remember Going On A Tour - The Guide Had Us Turn Off Our Flashlights At The Same Time - And It Became Pitch Black! Never Experienced A Darkness Like That Before! It Was So Dark, You Could Almost Feel It!
  - Well - This Is How Dark:
    - The Dungeon Of Sin & Depravity Is!
      - We May Not Think Sin:
        - Is So Bad Or So Serious:
          - But God Knows Its True Nature! Our True Nature!
  - And So - Paul Looks At:
    - The Most Common Way Our Sinful Hearts:
      - Are Exposed!
        - Through Our Words! Through What You Say!
  - 3:13-14 - “Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips: / Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness!”
    - The Darkness Of Your Dungeon:
      - Is Seen & Felt:
        - In What Comes Out Of Your Mouth! And It Is Full:
          - Of Darkness! Because:
  - It Is Full Of Defilement!
    - As It Says In 3:13a - “Their Throat Is An Open Sepulchre!”
      - The Word Translated “Throat” Is The Larynx Part Of Your Throat:
        - Where Your Vocal Chords Rest - And Where Any Words That Come Out Of Your Mouth - Begin!
    - A Sepulchre - Or A Tomb:
      - Is A Place Of Death & Decay, Disease & Defilement!
        - It’s A Place You Want To Cover Up! With Dirt Or With A Stone!
      - But - This Is How God Describes:
        - The Speech Of A Sinner!
          - As - An “Open Sepulchre!”
    - And - The Breath That Begins:
      - To Vibrate The Chords:
        - In Your Throat - Only Reveal:
          - What Is Buried Deep Within Your Heart!
      - In Psalm 5:9 - Which Paul Quotes Here - We Discover That “Their inward part is very wickedness; their throat is an open sepulchre; they flatter with their tongue!”

- Your Words Will All-Too-Often Betray The Darkness Of Your Heart! But Also:
- It Is Full Of Deceit!
  - As It Says In 3:13b - "With Their Tongues They Have Used Deceit!"
    - **IE:** I Remember Reading The Story Of Helen Keller - Who Was Both Blind & Deaf - And Struggled To Make Sense Of This World - Until She Met A Teacher Who Was As Strong-Willed As She Was - Anne Sullivan! I Was Mesmerized As I Read How Helen Learned To Speak - By Placing Her Fingers On Anne's Lips & Even Her Tongue!
  - Because - It Is With Your Tongue:
    - You Begin To Craft The Sounds:
      - Coming Out Of Your Larynx:
        - To Form Words!
    - But - What Are The Kinds Of Words:
      - All-Too-Often Crafted:
        - By Our Tongues?
    - Words To:
      - Trap! Tempt! Even - Torment - Hurt!
  - Reminds Us Of How James Describes:
    - The Power Of The Tongue:
      - In James 3:6 - "And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell!" Also:
- It Is Full Of Death!
  - As It Says In 3:13c - "The Poison Of Asps Is Under Their Lips!" - Which Is A Quote From Psalm 140:3!
    - **IE:** The Asp May Have Been An Egyptian Viper - That Is Known For Its Toxic And Deadly Venom! In The Snakes Head - There Is A Sack Of Venom With Ducts That Carry It To The Fangs
    - Tucked Away - Just Under The Lips!
  - What A Picture - Of Our Own Potential:
    - To Harm Others:
      - With Our Words!
        - Not Just **What** You Say, But Even **How** You Say It!
- And So - We Have A Description:
  - Of How This Dark & "Deadly Poison" Is Produced!
    - It Is Reserved:
      - In The Throat - As The Heart:
        - Swells Up In Anger & Hatred!
    - It Is Then Refined:
      - By The Tongue:
        - Crafting Just The Right Words To Hurt & Harm The Victim!
    - Then - It Is Ready:
      - Under The Lips:
        - So - At The Slightest Provocation, Those Venomous Words:
    - Are Released!
      - As Your Mouth Is Opened! And Then:
- It Is Full Of Destruction!
  - 3:14 - "Whose Mouth Is Full Of Cursing And Bitterness!"
    - Which Is A Quote From Psalm 10:7!
      - **IE:** Like A Broken Dam - Once The Mouth Is Open - All Of The Poison Pours Out! Words Of Hatred / Hardness / Hurt!
  - But - Where Did It All Begin?
    - From The Heart!
      - As Jesus Said In Matthew 12:34 - "O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh!"
- Do You Recognize:
  - This Process:
    - In Your Own Words?
      - Maybe Not Spoken - But Written?
        - Maybe Not Even Written:
          - But Wanted To?

- **IE:** If You're Anything Like Me - How Many Times Have I Wanted To Respond To Something I Read On Facebook - But Decided Not To! But - It Was Still There!
  - You See - Apart From God / Apart From Grace:
    - This Is Your Mouth Too!
- Because - The Dungeon Of Our Depravity:
  - Is Very, Very Dark!
    - But - It Still Doesn't Get Any Better:
      - As We Come To 3:15-17 - Where Paul Pulls From Isaiah 59:7-8!
        - Which Reveals That:

### 3. *The Dungeon Of Your Sin Is Very, Very Dangerous!*

- **IE:** One Thing That You Need To Know About Sin - Is That Sin Is Never Satisfied! Even As Proverbs 27:20 Tells Us - "Hell and destruction are never full; so the eyes of man are never satisfied!" Sin Is Never Satisfied!
  - And So - In 3:15-17 - Paul Again Uses God's Own Words:
    - To Show Us What The Life:
      - Of An Unrestrained Sinner:
        - Is Like!
          - It Is Dangerous!
  - Dangerous - Because Of:
    - The Extreme Nature Of Sin!
      - 3:16 - "Their Feet Are Swift To Shed Blood!"
        - Paul's Focus Here:
          - Is The Swift Nature Of Sin:
            - And - How Quickly - It Can Get Out Of Control - And Devolve Into The Worst Kinds Of Sin!
      - **IE:** Remember The Story Of Cain & Abel? In Genesis 4:8 - We Are Told - "And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him!"
        - How Quickly Did Things Progress:
          - There In That Field!
            - Started With His Mouth / Ended With Murder!
      - Sin Is Very Progressive!
        - It Keeps Getting Worse & Worse:
          - And Wants More & More!
            - Sin Is Never Satisfied!
      - And That Is Why:
        - The Dungeon Of Sin:
          - Is The Most Dangerous Place To Be!
            - Because - We Don't Understand The Depth Of Our Own Depravity!
        - But - Its Also Dangerous - Because Of:
    - The Excessive Nature Of Sin!
      - 3:17 - "Destruction And Misery Are In Their Ways!"
        - **IE:** The Picture Is - If Anyone Gets In Your Way - They Just Become Collateral Damage - As You Try To Get To Your Victim!
          - Without Any Care Or Consideration Or Compassion:
            - They Just Keep Trampling & Troubling Anyone Who Gets In Their Way!
        - **IE:** I'm Not Much Of A Video Game Player - Never Was - But There Was One Game I Rather Enjoyed When I Was A Teenager - Called "Rampage!" - Your Character Was A Gorilla Like King-Kong & You Just Climbed Up A Building & Then Destroyed Them With Your Fist - Until It Crumbled!
          - This Is What Unrestrained Sin:
            - Will Become In You!
              - A Real-Life "Rampage" Wherever You Go!
        - But - The Dungeon Of Sin:
          - Is Also Dangerous - Because Of:
    - The Empty Nature Of Sin!
      - 3:17 - "And The Way Of Peace They Have Not Known!"
        - You See - Not Only Is Sin Never Satisfied:
          - Sin Is Never Satisfying!

- The Sinner:
    - Who Stays A Sinner:
      - Will Never Know Or Experience:
        - Peace!
          - Not With Others!
          - Not With God!
          - Not Even With Themselves!
- And With This:
  - The Case Laid Out By God:
    - With His Own Words:
      - Comes To A Close!
  - Sinners Are Prisoners To Their Own Sin:
    - Because - 3:18 - "There Is No Fear Of God Before Their Eyes!"
  - And Apart From God:
    - And His Goodness To You:
      - This Is Your True Nature!
      - This Is Your Life!
  - You Are Stuck:
    - In The Muck And Mire:
      - Of Your Own Sin:
        - In The Dungeon Of Depravity!

**Conclusion:**

1. And This Is A Very, Very:
  - Deep & Dark & Dangerous:
    - Place To Be!
2. But - Only When You Understand:
  - **Your** True Nature:
    - Will You Ever Begin To Understand:
      - The True Nature Of **God**:
        - And His Grace:
          - And The Gospel - The Good News Of Jesus' Life & Death & Resurrection & Rescue!
3. Because Now:
  - You Can Know:
    - What We Are Told Back In Isaiah 59:1:
      - "Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear!"
  - You May Not Understand God:
    - But God Knows & Understands You!
      - You May Not Be Seeking After God:
        - But God Is Seeking After You!
    - You May Not See The Great Danger You Are In:
      - But God Sent His Only Begotten Son:
        - Into This World - "To Seek And To Save That Which Was Lost!" (Luke 19:10)
  - You Need To Know Today:
    - That Sin Is Devastating!
4. And - If You Are **Not**:
  - A Believer In Christ Today:
    - You Need To See Yourself:
      - As God **Sees** You:
        - If There Is Any Hope For You!
  - If You Think:
    - There Is Any Other Hope:
      - **Besides** Jesus:
        - You **Will** Keep Holding Out!
    - But - Look At Where You Are!
      - That Deep, Dark, Dangerous:



- Dungeon Of Depravity & Sin!

- There Is No Other Hope!

- Call Out / Cry Out To The Lord - Today!

- Isaiah 55:6-7 - "Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near! / Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon!"

5. But - If You **Are**:

- A Believer In Christ Today:

- You Too Need To See Yourself - Once Again:

- As God **Saw** You!

- And When You Do:

- It Will Remind You:

- That Sin:

- Is Still Devastating!

- It Devastates Your Church!

- It Devastates Your Family!

- It Devastates Your Heart!

- And Sin:

- Is Still Displeasing To:

- And Disappointing To:

- The Lord!

- So - The Lord Says To You Today:

- "Go, And Sin No More!"

- But:

- It Should Also Remind You:

- Of The "Amazing Grace" Of The Lord!

- Because - Even Though You Were:

- Fallen - All The Way!

- And You Couldn't Get **Up** & You Couldn't Get **Out!**

- Yet - Because God Sent His Son Jesus:

- To Seek You Out:

- You Are No More In & You Are No More Under:

- The Dungeon Of Your Own Depravity!

- Instead - He Drew You Out With:

- The Cords Of His Love!

6. So Now - Keep Responding To Him!

- With Love!

- With Thanksgiving!

- With A Life That Glorifies:

- Him!

- Because - As Psalm 40:2-3 Reminds Us:

- "He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings. / And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the LORD!"

\* Do You See How Deep & Dark & Dangers The Dungeon Of Sin Is?

\* Have You Repented Of Your Sin & Responded The Gospel By Faith?

\* In The Words Of Romans 12:9 - Are You Abhorring That Which Is Evil, And Cleaving To That Which is Good?

**Grace Baptist Church**

**Stephen Elmer, Pastor**

**4245 North 200 West**

**Greenfield, Indiana 46140**

**317-326-2362**

**[www.sermonaudio.com/wordofgrace](http://www.sermonaudio.com/wordofgrace)**

**[www.growatgrace.org](http://www.growatgrace.org)**

**[pastor-elmer@hotmail.com](mailto:pastor-elmer@hotmail.com)**