

## EXPOSITION OF ROMANS

### Message #12

### Romans 3:9-20

One of the real problems of our day is that not too many will admit condemnatory sin, and there is a rift of people in society who will tell us it isn't our fault. Dr. John MacArthur said: "Men like to believe they are basically good and that belief is continually reinforced by psychologists, counselors, and a great many religious leaders" (*Romans*, Vol. 1, p. 177).

If we were to stop people in the streets and ask them, "How do you think God views human beings?" I am certain we would hear some interesting answers. Some would say - "God is a loving God and He knows men do the best they can." Some would say - "God sees the bad things, but in the end He will just overlook them and everyone will live happily ever after." Some would say - "God knows no one is perfect, we have all made mistakes, but in the end everything will be fine."

Unfortunately, this type of view is not Biblical ! God does not see mankind this way. **Even though most do not want to admit it, the truth is all are guilty in His estimation and deserve His wrath.**

**EVERY HUMAN BEING IS GUILTY BEFORE GOD, AND APART FROM FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST HE WILL BE JUSTLY CONDEMNED BY GOD.**

This is precisely the point of **verse 9**. All humanity is sinful. If a person has not trusted in Jesus Christ for salvation, he is lost. He is not good; he is doomed.

**REASON #1** – All humanity is guilty and will be condemned because of God's view of man. **3:10-12**

In these verses, Paul gives us six glimpses of man's status from God's perspective.

**Glimpse #1** - Man is not righteous. **3:10**

I want you to notice how **verse 10** begins "as it is written." This is God's written, undebatable, observable classification of man. It is in print for us to clearly see.

**God's view of man is "there is none righteous."** The idea of being "righteous" is the idea of being right according to the standard of God. According to God's Word, there is no one who meets His righteous standard. There is no one who measures up - not even one.

This picture God has of man is not new. In fact, Paul is quoting Psalm 14:1-3 and Psalm 53:1-3. There has never been any person who measured up to the righteous standards of God.

**Glimpse #2** - Man is not understanding . 3:11a

The word “understanding” is one that means to know something or perceive something. To have a true mental perception. What Paul is saying is that not one person has, in and of himself, a proper mental perception about God and His method of righteousness. **Lost people do not have a proper view and perception of God.**

**Glimpse #3** - Man does not seek God . 3:11b

The idea of one who “seeks for God” is the idea of searching for a relationship with God that is proper in light of who God is and what God says. Sinful man does not seek God. He does not, in and of himself, search for a proper relationship with God. It is natural for a person to want God on his terms; it is not natural for a person to seek God on God’s terms. This is clearly seen in the aftermath of man’s first sin. It wasn’t Adam and Eve who went seeking God, it was God who sought them (Genesis 3:8-10). When Adam sinned he didn’t run to God; he ran away from God and man has been running from God ever since.

**Glimpse #4** - Man does not move right . 3:12a

According to God’s way of righteousness, no man moves in the right direction. All have “turned aside.” Donald Gray Barnhouse said you may easily prove this point by observing that most people do not like careful teaching of God’s Word and doctrines, which proves most people are not really interested in moving in a right direction.

Isaiah the prophet said - “All of us are like sheep who have gone astray, we have all turned to his own way” (Isaiah 53:6).

The verb “turn aside” carries with it the idea of turning from what is right in God’s view to what is evil (G. Abbott-Smith, p. 139). Every human being has turned from the right path to the wrong path. This is God’s personal evaluation of every human being.

**Glimpse #5** - Man becomes useless . 3:12b

The Hebrew equivalent of this Greek word describes a milk that was so sour and spoiled that you could not use it for drinking.

The verb “have become useless” is a passive verb. What this means is that regardless of what man has done, he is made useless to the mind of God. One who tries to be right with God on his own is one whom God views as useless. His efforts mean nothing to God.

**The passive verb clearly indicates that a person is useless, not by his own action , but by classification of God if he does not trust Jesus Christ for salvation.**

**Glimpse #6** - Man is not good . **3:12c**

**Total Depravity does not mean there is not some good in a human; it means there is no good in a human that can satisfy God.**

There is not even one human being in the entire world good enough to be right with God in and of himself. Solomon said: “For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good and sinneth not” (Ecclesiastes 7:20).

**REASON #2** – All humanity is guilty and will be condemned because of man’s own works.  
**3:13-18**

There are two specific works mentioned here:

**Work #1** - Man has sinned with his speech . **3:13-14**

One of the great proofs that God’s picture of man is accurate is what comes out of his mouth . Our lips have revealed our depravity .

None of us are innocent when it comes to the things we have said .

Speech is a real proof of what is happening in one’s heart . No wonder James says the mark of real spiritual depth is to control one’s speech (James 3:2).

**Work #2** - Man has sinned with his actions . **3:15-18**

Lost man acts lost. Man does not fear God - he will do miserable, destructive things contrary to the Word of God.

Read the history of this country how we went to the Indian territories and killed the Indians and took their land. Read the history of how white men went to Africa and stole natives and sold them like a piece of meat. Look at the barons of this country who fatten their pocketbooks because of their greed, while poor working people try to find a job to provide food, clothing, shelter for their families. We are a country that supports the murder of babies. A baby born in the U.S. since 1980 is more likely to be killed than a WW II soldier who was in combat.

**REASON #3** – All humanity is guilty and condemned because of God’s Law . **3:19-20**

In these two verses are three important stated purposes of the Law:

**(Purpose #1)** - The Law shuts mouths . **3:19a**

**(Purpose #2)** - The Law establishes accountability . **3:19b**

**(Purpose #3)** - The Law establishes sin . **3:20**

One who wants to stand before God on the basis of his keeping of the Law had better understand that the Law is not designed to make us right with God. The Law is designed to show us we are sinful and guilty so we will totally rely upon Jesus Christ to save us. If we were to dare suggest that we have kept all of the Law of God, which is as righteous as God, God would shut our mouths with His Law.

Paul wanted every human to realize that before God he is guilty. If we will admit that and then totally trust in Jesus Christ to save us, we shall be saved.

God obviously knows what we really are, a bunch of depraved sinners. Why not say to God - you are absolutely right. I am a guilty sinner and that is why right now I place all of my faith in your Son, Jesus Christ, to save me from my terrible sins.