

Romans 3; Lord's Day 3
ACCURATE KNOWLEDGE OF MISERY

- I. The presence of misery.
 - A. Everyone needs Jesus the Savior of sinners, but only some know that they need such a Savior.
 - B. Essential to have a correct knowledge of oneself is to remember that misery is the result of sin.
 - 1. God gives misery as a consequence of sin to teach us that we are sinners!
 - 2. Unless we see sin to be the cause of our misery and treat it, there will be no deliverance and recovery.
 - C. We must realize that human nature (our old man) always handles sin and misery incorrectly.
- II. The correct standard for evaluating misery is God, Who has been pleased to reveal Himself in His law.
 - A. God's law reflects God Himself and it is not just some great principles (put in courthouses).
 - B. Sin is missing the mark which God's law identifies for us.
 - 1. By the law is the knowledge of sin (Rom. 3:20b), that the carnal mind is enmity against God (Rom. 8:7).
 - 2. The problem is not the law, for it is good (I Tim. 1:8). Often we want to blame the diagnostic tool.
 - C. The heart of God's law, reflecting God's own heart, is love (Rom. 13:10): "want to" is the heart of "must."
- III. The bright light of the God's law shows me that the cause of all my misery is me.
 - A. We confess that no one is righteous; all have sinned and come short (Rom. 3:10,23); man's heart is desperately wicked (Jer. 17:9); spiritually dead in sin (Eph. 2:1) living in malice and envy, hated and hating (Titus 3:3).
 - B. The true believer is the only one with the ability to admit honestly his natural and constant depravity and his natural proneness to hate God and my neighbor.
 - C. But there is no reason to despair, for the same faith which acknowledges sin, also acknowledges justification (5:1 and 8:1).