

**The Wretchedness of Man and the
Righteousness of God**

Part 1 – The Nature of Human Depravity

Romans 3:9-20

- I. The Comprehensiveness of Depravity (vs. 9-12)
- II. The Corrupt Communication of Depravity (vs. 13-14)
- III. The Consequences of Depravity (vs. 15-18)
- IV. The Condemnation of Depravity (vs. 19-20)

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, September 29, 2019

Passage: Romans 3:9-20

Memory Passage: Romans 3:19-20

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Romans 3:9-20; Psalm 5:9; 10:7; 14:1-3; 36:1; 53:1-3; 140:3; Eccles. 7:20; Isaiah 59:7,8** In Romans 3:9-20, Paul quotes extensively from the Old Testament (as indicated by the phrase “as it is written” in verse 10). What might be his purpose in doing so?
- (b) Paul’s selection of these Old Testament texts includes references to various parts of the human body. What might be the reason as to why Paul focuses on the specific body parts of throat, tongue, lips and mouth in verses 13&14? (cf. James 3:5-12)
- (c) What do the terms “feet” (v.15), “paths” (v.16), and “way” (v.17) signify in this passage?

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Romans 3:9-20** What is the point of Paul’s question in v.9: “Are we [Jews] any better off?” (Note that the word “Jews” does not appear in the Greek text, but has been supplied by the ESV translators for clarity)
- (b) What does it mean to be “under sin” (v.9)?
- (c) What specifically is it that “no one understands” (v.11)?
- (d) Why is it that “no one seeks for God?” How should this truth inform the church regarding our approach to evangelism?

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Romans 3:9-20; Psalm 51:5** How can it be said that “no one does good” (v.12)? Does this mean that unbelievers cannot do good things that would be of benefit to other people in society?
- (b) According to Psalm 51:5, when did David become sinful? Why is this important regarding our understanding of human nature?
- (c) The words “they” or “their” are found 10 times in Romans 3:12-18. Who do these terms refer to in this text?

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Romans 3:9-20** What is the underlying reason that there is “no fear of God before their eyes” (v.18)?
- (b) Who are those who are “under the law” in verse 19?
- (c) According to verse 20, what function does the law serve? Why is it that people tend to attempt using the law as a means of attaining righteousness?

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Romans 3:9-20; 5:12-21** In light of these texts, what do you think the Apostle Paul’s response would be to someone who believes that “man is basically good?”
- (b) How would you answer someone who said, “It isn’t fair for God to condemn the whole world on the basis of Adam’s sin”?
- (c) Do men and women have “free will” to accept or reject Christ? Explain your answer.

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