

ROMANS

PART I: THE PROBLEM

Romans 3:9-20

⁹ What shall we conclude then? Do we have any advantage? Not at all! For we have already made the charge that Jews and Gentiles alike are all under the power of sin. ¹⁰ As it is written: "There is no one righteous, not even one; ¹¹ there is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God.

Romans 3:9-20

¹² All have turned away, they have altogether become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one."

¹³ "Their throats are open graves; their tongues practice deceit." "The poison of vipers is on their lips."¹⁴ "Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness."¹⁵ "Their feet are swift to shed blood; ¹⁶ ruin and misery mark their ways, ¹⁷ and the way of peace they do not know."

Romans 3:9-20

¹⁸ "There is no fear of God before their eyes."

¹⁹ Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God. ²⁰ Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God's sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin.

The background of the image is a dramatic, overcast sky with heavy, grey clouds. Numerous birds are seen in flight, scattered across the sky. In the foreground, the tops of two stone ruins are visible, one on the left and one on the right, framing the central text. The ruins are made of rough, layered stones.

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NOT ONE RIGHTEOUS

PAUL'S ARGUMENT

We all need the
righteousness of God only
available through the
gospel of Jesus Christ.

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CHAPTER 1

Why do the Gentiles need the gospel?

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CHAPTER 2

**Why do the Jews need
the gospel?**

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CHAPTER 3:1-8

What is the purpose of the Law?

Romans 3:9
***What shall we conclude
then?***

CONCLUSION #1

SIN MAKES US EQUALS

Romans 3:9

9 What shall we conclude then? Do we have any advantage? Not at all! For we have already made the charge that Jews and Gentiles alike are all under the power of sin.

#1 The Usage of NONE and ALL

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#2 The Usage of SCRIPTURE

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#3 Indictment

Categories:

Sin against GOD and

Sin against PEOPLE

Sin against God

Vs. 10-11: There is none righteous, not even one; there is none who understands, there is none who seeks for God.

V. 18: There is no fear of God before their eyes.

Sin against People

V.13-14 Our Speech

Sin against People

V.13-14 Our Speech

V.15-17 Our Actions

V.12

No one does good??

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**“Good” is that which conforms
to God’s character and comes
from a heart committed to
honoring God.**

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CONCLUSION #1

SIN MAKES US EQUALS

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CONCLUSION #2
OUR SIN PROBLEM SHOULD
BRING US TO SILENCE.

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CONCLUSION #2

OUR SIN PROBLEM BRINGS US TO SILENCE.

Romans 3:19-20

¹⁹ Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God. ²⁰ Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God's sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin.

“Because of the Gospel, the way of God is wide open. Nothing stands between you and God but your good works. All you need is need. All you need is nothing, but most people don’t have it.”

-John Gerstner

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Religion vs. The Gospel

Tim Keller

Religion

I obey-therefore I'm accepted.

Motivation is based on fear and insecurity.

I obey God in order to get things from God.

When circumstances in my life go wrong, I am angry at God or my self, since I believe, like Job's friends that anyone who is good deserves a comfortable life.

When I am criticized I am furious or devastated because it is critical that I think of myself as a 'good person'. Threats to that self-image must be destroyed at all costs.

My prayer life consists largely of petition and it only heats up when I am in a time of need. My main purpose in prayer is control of the environment.

My self-view swings between two poles. If and when I am living up to my standards, I feel confident, but then I am prone to be proud and unsympathetic to failing people. If and when I am not living up to standards, I feel insecure and inadequate. I'm not confident. I feel like a failure.

My identity and self-worth are based mainly on how hard I work. Or how moral I am, and so I must look down on those I perceive as lazy or immoral. I disdain and feel superior to 'the other.'

Since I look to my own pedigree or performance for my spiritual acceptability, my heart manufactures idols. It may be my talents, my moral record; my personal discipline, my social status, etc. I absolutely have to have them so they serve as my main hope, meaning, happiness, security, and significance, whatever I may say I believe about God.

The Gospel

I'm accepted-therefore I obey.

Motivation is based on grateful joy.

I obey God to get to God-to delight and resemble Him.

When circumstances in my life go wrong, I struggle but I know all my punishment fell on Jesus and that while he may allow this for my training, he will exercise his Fatherly love within my trial.

When I am criticized I struggle, but it is not critical for me to think of myself as a 'good person.' My identity is not built on my record or my performance but on God's love for me in Christ. I can take criticism.

My prayer life consists of generous stretches of praise and adoration. My main purpose is fellowship with Him.

My self-view is not based on a view of my self as a moral achiever. In Christ I am "simul iustus et peccator"—simultaneously sinful and yet accepted in Christ. I am so bad he had to die for me and I am so loved he was glad to die for me. This leads me to deeper and deeper humility and confidence at the same time. Neither swaggering nor sniveling.

My identity and self-worth are centered on the one who died for His enemies, who was excluded from the city for me. I am saved by sheer grace. So I can't look down on those who believe or practice something different from me. Only by grace I am what I am. I've no inner need to win arguments.

I have many good things in my life—family, work, spiritual disciplines, etc. But none of these good things are ultimate things to me. None of them are things I absolutely have to have, so there is a limit to how much anxiety, bitterness, and despondency they can inflict on me when they are threatened and lost.

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**When you realize that you
aren't seeking Him, but He is
seeking you, it changes
everything.**

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