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.