

PAUL'S LETTER TO THE
Romans
Romans 3:9-20

The Guilt and Inability of All People

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Jews and Gentiles Are Under Sin

Romans 3:9 NET What then? **Are we better off?** **Certainly not**, for we have already charged that Jews and Greeks alike are all **under sin**,

- **Romans 3:1-2 Then what advantage has the Jew?** Or what is the benefit of circumcision? **Great in every respect.** First of all, that they were entrusted with **the oracles of God.**
- **Sin as a power:**
 1. Reigns 5:21; 6:12
 2. Enslaves 6:6, 16-22

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Sin List Summary

Inclusio: Romans 3:10-18

Verses 10-12 Unrighteous Before God
 Verses 13-14 Sins of Speech
 Verses 15-17 Sins of Conduct
Verse 18 No Fear of God

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The Universality of Unrighteousness

Romans 3:10-12 ESV ...as it is written: “None is righteous, no, not one; 11 no one understands; no one seeks for God. 12 All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.”

- **Universality:** “there is no one...” used 5 times. “All” used once.
- **Deuteronomy 5:32** So you shall observe to do just as the LORD your God has commanded you; **you shall not turn aside** to the right or to the left.

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Sin in Speech and Conduct

Romans 3:13-18 ESV Their throat is an open grave; they use their tongues to deceive.” “The venom of asps is under their lips.” 14 “Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness.” 15 “Their feet are swift to shed blood; 16 in their paths are ruin and misery, 17 and the way of peace they have not known.” 18 “There is no fear of God before their eyes.”

- **Proverbs 1:7** The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.
- **Psalm 36:1** Transgression speaks to the ungodly within his heart; there is no fear of God before his eyes.

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No One Can Obey God’s Law

Romans 3:19-20 Now we know that whatever the Law says, it speaks to those who are under the Law, so that **every mouth may be closed and all the world may become accountable to God**; 20 because by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight; for through the Law comes the knowledge of sin.

- “Under the Law” = “in the Law” – refers to Jews
- “Every mouth may be closed” = courtroom language
- **Works of the Law:**
 1. Identity markers in the Law that separated Jew and Gentile?
 2. Works produced by the Law are evil?
 3. No one can keep God’s revealed Law?

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Applications

1. Since no human being is righteous, salvation is only of God.
2. Since no one seeks for God by their own initiative, God must seek for His elect.
3. All human beings need Christ's righteousness in order to be saved.

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1. No Person Is Righteous: Salvation Is of God

Romans 3:10 ESV as it is written: "None is righteous, no, not one..."

Ecclesiastes 7:20 Indeed, there is not a righteous man on earth who continually does good and who never sins.

Psalm 143:1-2 Hear my prayer, O LORD, Give ear to my supplications! Answer me in Your faithfulness, in Your righteousness! 2 And do not enter into judgment with Your servant, for in Your sight no man living is righteous.

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2. We Don't Seek for God, He Seeks for Us!

Romans 3:11 no one understands; no one seeks for God.

Jeremiah 29:13 You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart.

- How do we reconcile?
- God alone gives the desire and ability to seek Him!

John 6:44 No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day.

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3. We Need Christ's Righteousness

Psalm 5:4-5 NET Certainly you are not a God who approves of evil; **evil people cannot dwell with you.**
5 Arrogant people cannot stand in your presence; you hate all who behave wickedly.

Galatians 4:4-5 But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, **born under the law,** 5 to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

2 Corinthians 5:21 He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, **so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.**

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