



7/22/25

What a great kickoff we had to VBS last night!!! The excitement of the kids... the worship... the truth of God's word being celebrated... getting to serve the Lord with so many volunteers!!! It's such a beautiful shadow of what heaven will be... as we all come to the Lord with childlike faith and excitement. We get 3 more days of VBS... and an eternity of another VBS... Victory Before our Savior. Amen!

*Blessings,
Jonna*

Romans 3:9-20 ~

More and more I'm being challenged and amazed by the fact that I have absolutely no power to save myself OR overcome sin that deceives and entangles me. The more I understand that, the more I want to worship the Lord. Yes, it's His plan. Yes, He knew that man would reject Him all the way from the beginning in the Garden. And YES... He said, "I will make the sacrifice that reconciles them to Me." That blows me away. So in this passage, Paul is still driving home the point that we are helpless without God... and that God always knew we would reject Him over and over again. He wrote about it over and over again throughout scripture as I will see. If I don't understand the horrific truth of my unworthiness without Him, I won't be able to humbly and ecstatically celebrate His mercy.

Vs. 9 ~ Paul was a Jew. Before coming to Christ, he was a Pharisee... a Hebrew of Hebrews. And he came to understand that without Christ, being born Jewish means nothing for salvation. He did not have an advantage over Gentiles. ALL are in need of the Savior, Jesus Christ. ALL are under the curse of sin without Jesus. ALL are unable to overcome the curse of sin and death without Jesus.

As a good Jew who was raised in the scriptures, Paul quoted a series of Old Testament passages proving that NO ONE, Jew or Gentile, is righteous before a holy God.

Vs. 10-12 ~ First Paul quoted from Psalm 14:1-3 and 53:1-3.

Psalm 14:1-3 says, "The fool says in his heart, 'There is no God.' They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds; there is none who does good. The Lord looks down from heaven on the children of man, to see if there are any who understand, who seek after God. They have all turned aside; together they have become corrupt; there is none who does good, not even one." This is saying that anyone who thinks he can be righteous apart from God is a fool. What does God look for? Good works? No. He looks for the heart of those who seek HIM. Our works are only an expression of where we place our faith. Even good works in the eyes of man done to lift up self are corrupt.

Psalm 53:1-3 says something very similar, "The fool says in his heart, 'There is no God.' They are corrupt, doing abominable iniquity; there is none who does good. God looks down from heaven on the children of man to see if there are any who understand, who seek after God. They have all fallen away; together they have become corrupt; there is none who does good, not even one." Even if they once considered God, they became corrupt in unbelief and fell away. "Without faith, it is IMPOSSIBLE to please God" (Hebrews 11:6). Without putting my confidence in Him, being convinced of who He is, and committing to seek Him and draw near to Him, I have no hope of being righteous... I can't be saved without Jesus fulfilling the righteous requirement of the law in me.

Vs. 13 ~ Then Paul quoted from Psalm 5:9 and Psalm 140:3 to prove our need for Jesus Christ.

Psalm 5:9 says, "For there is no truth in their mouth; their inmost self is destruction; their throat is an open grave; they flatter with their tongue." In other words, without Jesus, we speak words of death no matter how much we quote flattery, even from the word.

Psalm 140:3 says, "They make their tongue sharp as a serpent's, and under their lips is the venom of asps." Yikes! Without Jesus, we speak the poison of deceit.

Vs. 14 ~ Next came a quote from Psalm 10:7, "His mouth is filled with cursing and deceit and oppression; under his tongue are mischief and iniquity." Yikes!

Vs. 15-17 ~ Next, Isaiah 59:7-8, "Their feet run to evil, and they are swift to shed innocent blood; their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity; desolation and destruction are in their highways. The way of peace they do not know, and there is no justice in their paths; they have made their roads crooked; no one who treads on them knows peace."

Vs. 18 ~ Finally, Paul quoted from Psalm 36:1, "Transgression speaks to the wicked deep in his heart; there is no fear of God before his eyes."

7 Old Testament passages proving that I have no righteousness, no hope of salvation, no honor apart from God. THIS IS WHO I AM APART FROM JESUS!!! This is the description of every single person who has not received Jesus as Lord and Savior ~

- *Unrighteous*

- *Ignorant by choice*
- *Rejecting God*
- *Worthless*
- *Dead*
- *Deceptive*
- *Bitter*
- *Corrupt*
- *Knowing no peace*
- *Having no fear, worship, awe, trust in God*

O Lord, please help me to understand this so that I will also understand how great a gift I have been given through Jesus. You make me...

- *Righteous*
 - *Wise*
 - *Reconciled to You*
 - *Valuable*
 - *Alive*
 - *Honest*
 - *Forgiving*
 - *Pure*
 - *Content and peaceful*
- *In awe of You, worshiping You because...*

This is who YOU are. You make me to be like You. Being with You is exponentially better than any temporary pleasure I could find on my own.

Vs. 19-20 ~ If I am not in Christ, I am under the condemnation of the law, whether I acknowledge it or not. If I'm not in Christ, I will be judged by the law... just like if I go to another state whose rules say no one is allowed to turn right on red... and I ignorantly turn right on red... I will not be able to claim ignorance. I will still get a ticket. This law that I'm judged under without Christ has much greater consequences. Every single person, no matter who they are, is held accountable to God... "For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin." All the law does is reveal my need for a Savior. It cannot save me. It cannot make me righteous.

If Jesus had not come to be my Savior, this news of my inability to measure up would be devastating. It's important I see that or I will never understand how great a sacrifice Jesus made for me. I'm thankful for Jesus... I'm thankful that tomorrow's passage will finally turn the corner to show me the hope I have in Christ!!! Amen!