

Romans 3:9-20

All Guilty Under Sin

1. 3:9 - All Under Sin

- a. *"Are we better than they?"* - We're good people, who know right. God is too harsh.
- b. *"they"* - unbelievers (3), the world (6), Gentiles (2), sinners (7), justly damned (8)
- c. *"We"* - The hypothetical religious/Jewish objector (Paul is a Jew, too)
- d. *"before proved both... all"* - in Romans chapter 1 (Gentile) and 2 (Jew)
- e. Sin ~*def.* Disobedience to truth; offense to right; unworthy of God; deserving wrath.
- f. *"all"* - We see good / bad people, but God sees only sinners.
- g. *"under sin"* - it's power to kill, destroy, and condemn (declare all guilty)

2. 3:10-18 - As it is Written

- a. *'as it is written'* - Paul referencing scriptural inspiration/authority to condemn Israel
 - i. Proving 'God loves you' from OT is not what Paul is doing.
- b. 10 - None means none, there is no excuse – Psalms 14:1-4/53:1-4, Ecc 7:20
 - i. Note: This is a summary conclusion - it took longer to prove. Beware.
- c. 11 - None understands [spiritual things] or seeks after God – 1 Cor 2:14, Eph 5:17
 - i. None seeketh – Acts 17:27, Isa 9:13, 31:1, Mat 7:7, but... Isa 55:6-9
- d. 12 - *'out of the way'* - Isa 53:6, *'become unprofitable'* - like a holey bucket - Jer 2:13
- e. 13-14 - Sepulchres keep dead bones looking pretty - Psa 5:9, Matt 23:27-31
 - i. Poisonous lips, bitter mouths - Psa 10:7, 36:1-3, 140:1-3, Prov 6:17-18
 - ii. What defiles comes from the heart out of the mouth - Mat 12:34-35, 15:18-19
- f. 15-16 - Swift to shed blood is not the mercy of the law – Isaiah 59:2-8, John 8:1-11
 - i. 'destruction and misery' is the real consequence of sin, not prosperity and fun
- g. 17 - The way of peace they have not known - Isa 48:22, 57:21, 66:24, Lk 1:79, Mt 24:6
- h. 18 - No fear of God - Job 28:28, Psa 36:1-4, Prov 8:13, 31:30, Ecc 12:13, Songs?
- i. Fear is what the law taught, grace teaches different – Rom 8:15, 2 Tim 1:7

3. 3:19-20 - The Function of the Law

- a. 19 - *"whatsoever the law saith"* - James 2:10-12, Gal 3:10, see also Gal 3:21-22
- b. *"to them who are under"* = All men judged by works, but the law to Israel - 2:12, 17
- c. *"every mouth ..."* - without excuse. The mouths needing stopped were in Israel.
- d. *"that"* - the function of the law, and the proper use of the law today - 1 Tim 1:7-11
- e. *"all the world... guilty"* - Israel falling, both Jew and Gentile deserve wrath - Rom 1:18.
- f. 20 - *"therefore"* - the law was powerless to justify - Jer 31:31, Isa 64:6, Heb 8:8, Rom 8:3
 - i. *"deeds of the law"* - which includes works such as love God, love your neighbor
 - ii. *"no flesh be justified"* - Jew nor Gentile, Psa 7:8-9, James 2:18-24, Rom 2:13?
 - iii. *"in his sight"* - We see do gooders and do badders, but God sees only sinners
- g. *"by the law is the knowledge of sin"* - Gal 2:15-16, 3:10-13
 - i. The law was not a guard against sin, the strength of sin is the law - 1 Cor 15:56