

## 9. Learning Why We Are All Guilty Before God

In our last topic, we saw that we want to help our physical and spiritual children understand why God said that the Jews had a great advantage over the Gentiles in the time of the Old Testament. They had the written Word of God to help them know exactly what is right and what is wrong. As a result, they could not say that they did not know what God said is sin or what God said about the consequences of sin. In our topic today, we are going to see that God summarizes all that has been covered in the first part of Romans by showing that all are guilty because all have sinned against God.

Romans 3:9-12 says, “What then? Are we better *than they*? Not at all. For we have previously charged both Jews and Greeks that they are all under sin. As it is written: ‘There is none righteous, no, not one; there is none who understands; there is none who seeks after God. They have all turned aside; they have together become unprofitable; there is none who does good, no, not one.’” Paul also wanted to make it clear that even those who have become Christians were not better than the people who are still living in sin and rebellion against God. We were not better than those who have not yet believed. We have seen clearly that all people, whether they are Jews or Gentiles, are guilty in the sight of God. We were just as guilty until we received the forgiveness of our sins by placing our faith in the fact that Christ paid for those sins.

Verses 10 through 12 are actually taken from Psalm 14:1-3 where we read, “The fool has said in his heart, ‘*There is no God.*’ They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, There is none who does good. The LORD looks down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there are any who understand, who seek God. They have all turned aside, they have together become corrupt; *there is none who does good, No, not one.*” Here, we have a great description of the character of man.

First, we see that there is not a single righteous person. Second, we see that no person understands. Matthew 13:13-15 said that Isaiah had predicted this lack of understanding. ““Therefore I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. And in them the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled, which says: ‘Hearing you will hear and shall not understand, and seeing you will see and not perceive; for the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, so that I should heal them.’”” There has been no human in history that has understood the salvation that God has provided without God giving that understanding.

Third, we see that there is no person who seeks after God. Romans 1:21-23 says, “Because, although they knew God, they did not glorify *Him* as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man--and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.” Here, we see the same thing that was written in Psalm 14. Instead of seeking God, mankind immediately chose to turn aside from God and create a false god in the image of sinful man or in the image of a bird, animal or creeping thing. That is

why God said that all people have become unprofitable. That is why God said there is not a single person who seeks the good which God has made available through the salvation provided by Christ through His death and resurrection.

Instead of man seeking God, John 6:44 tells us that no one will come to Christ unless the Father draws him. That verse says, “No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day.” Instead, the character of man is described in Isaiah 53:6 where we read, “All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.” This describes the true character of mankind.

Next, we are given a description of the talk or conversation of man. Romans 3:13-14 says, “Their throat is an open tomb; with their tongues they have practiced deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips; whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness.” These verses are quoted from Psalm 5:9, Psalm 140:3 and Psalm 10:7. Here, we see that people show the evil in their hearts by what they speak. Jeremiah 17:9 says, “The heart *is* deceitful above all *things*, and desperately wicked; who can know it?” Proverbs 15:28 says, “The heart of the righteous studies how to answer, but the mouth of the wicked pours forth evil.” The mouth of the wicked pours out evil because the heart is evil. The words that evil people speak are like poison. These words are full of cursing and bitterness. They show what is in their heart by what they say.

Then, Romans 3:15-17 shows us the actions or conduct of people without Christ. Those verses say, “Their feet are swift to shed blood; destruction and misery are in their ways; and the way of peace they have not known.” These verses are taken from Isaiah 59:7-8 where we read, “Their feet run to evil, and they make haste to shed innocent blood; their thoughts *are* thoughts of iniquity; wasting and destruction *are* in their paths. The way of peace they have not known, and *there is* no justice in their ways; they have made themselves crooked paths; whoever takes that way shall not know peace.” Verse 15 points out the fact that people are quick to get even by hurting and destroying other people.

Verse 16 says that destruction and misery are in their ways. Here, we see that because people seek to satisfy themselves, they do not even think about the fact that they are causing pain and suffering to others. Verse 17 says that because all people turned away from God it was impossible for anyone to find peace without God. As a result, it is impossible for people without Christ to experience the peace of God in their lives since no one can know God until that person comes to God through Christ.

Because the character, the talk and the actions of people are against God, Romans 3:18 says, “There is no fear of God before their eyes.” In Psalm 36:1, we read, “An oracle within my heart concerning the transgression of the wicked: *there is* no fear of God before his eyes.” David made it clear a thousand years before Christ came to this earth that there is no fear of God in the eyes and hearts of people. This lack of reverence or fear of God shows that people try to leave God out of their lives until the Father works in their lives to draw people to Christ.

That is why Romans 3:19 says, “Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who

are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.” Here, we see that the law is designed to show that every person without Christ is guilty before God and has broken the law of God. That is why it is important to understand the purpose of the law. Galatians 3:24-25 says, “Therefore the law was our tutor *to bring us* to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.” The purpose of the law is to cause all people to realize that they are guilty before God so that they can come to the Father through Christ. Once we come to Christ and place our faith in Him, we are justified by faith. As a result, from that moment on we are no longer under the law.

The law causes every mouth to be stopped. This means that no person can deny that he or she has sinned. The rich young ruler was one who tried to make such a claim. Christ first asked him about the second part of the law that deals with man’s relationship to other people. The rich young ruler answered in Luke 18:21, “And he said, ‘All these things I have kept from my youth.’” We read what happened next in Luke 18:22-23, “So when Jesus heard these things, He said to him, ‘You still lack one thing. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.’ But when he heard this, he became very sorrowful, for he was very rich.” Christ knew that the money of the young ruler was his god. As a result, when Christ asked him to turn from his god of money to Christ, the rich young ruler went away sad. The law showed that the rich young ruler was guilty and he could say nothing more.

Romans 3:20 says, “Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law *is* the knowledge of sin.” This verse makes it clear that it is impossible for any person to be made just in the sight of God by keeping the law because it is impossible for any person to keep the law. All are guilty of breaking the law of God. As a result, all people who have rejected Christ will be without excuse when they stand before God at the judgment.

The purpose of the law is again summarized in this verse as it says that by the law is the knowledge of sin. One day all those who reject Christ will stand before God to be judged for their works. Revelation 20:12-13 says, “And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is *the Book of Life*. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works.” Their works will show that they are all guilty of breaking the law of God. We want to help our physical and spiritual children learn how to explain to others why every person who has rejected the salvation provided by Christ will be guilty before God when they are judged by their works. May the Lord richly bless you as you help your children learn how to explain why all are guilty before God.