

Studies in Romans

Topic: All Are Sinners Before God

Scripture: Romans 3

Memory Verse: Romans 3:23

Lesson 3

Romans 3

INTRODUCTION: Paul has so far addressed the “ungodly sinner” in chapter 1 and the “respectable sinner” in chapter 2. Now, in chapter 3, Paul addressed all classes of men for all men are sinners, whether good or bad, and have come short of God’s standard. (Isaiah 53:6; Psalm 14:1-3)

I MAN IS JUDGED BY GOD v 1-8

- A. The Jews had the scriptures and were more accountable to God for their unbelief v 1-2
There was one advantage that the Jew had over the Gentile and that was the exposure he had from his childhood to the “oracles of God” (the scriptures). (II Timothy 3:15)
- B. The Jew, though given God’s promises, would not escape God’s judgment for his sin v 3-6
The Jew thought that, since he was in such a privileged nation as Israel, he would escape God’s judgment of his sin. But this was not true for God had judged Israel many times for their sin and would also judge the rest of the world. (Deuteronomy 30:15-19; Acts 17:31; Hebrews 9:27)
- C. Many had lied about Paul’s teaching v 7-8
Paul’s enemies were spreading the lie that Paul was preaching that men ought to sin so that God would receive more glory when He forgave their sin. Paul denied any such false teaching and declared that it was only right for those who would tell such lies to receive judgment.

NOTE: Religion will not exempt anyone from the judgment of God. Jew and Gentile, religious and non-religious will all stand before God because they are all sinners. (Romans 14:10; Acts 10:42; Romans 2:3)

II MAN IS GUILTY BEFORE GOD v 9-20

- A. The whole human race are guilty sinners before God v 9-12
Man has a sinful nature and is incapable of doing anything to earn his way to Heaven. ALL have sinned. (Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5)

NOTE:

Paul showed that all men are guilty as sinners by two things:

- 1) men of all races are sinners v 9
Jew and Gentile, red, yellow, black, and white are all sinners
- 2) men of all religions are sinners v 10-12
 - a) men are unrighteous - v 10; Psalm 14:3
 - b) men are unreasonable - v 11a; I Corinthians 2:14; Colossians 1:21)
 - c) men are unresponsive - v 11b; I Corinthians 10:20; John 6:44
 - d) men are unrepentant - v 12; Isaiah 53:3; John 1:11

B. All men are sinners by nature and also by actions - what we say and what we do v 13-18

- 1) man sins with his mouth - v 13-14; Matthew 12:36; Matthew 5:36
- 2) man sins with his body - v 15-18
 - a) murder - v 15; Isaiah 59:8-9; Matthew 19:18)
 - b) destruction and misery - v 16-17; Romans 5:1; Philippians 4:7
 - c) no fear of God - v 18; Psalm 36:1; Ecclesiastes 12:13

C. The law cannot save any man v 19-20

The "law" was not given to save men, but to show men how sinful they were so that they then might trust Christ by faith and find forgiveness for their sins. (Galatians 2:16; 3:19-26)

III MAN IS JUSTIFIED BY FAITH IN CHRIST v 21-31

A. Paul now reveals God's plan of salvation v 21-23

Man's way to save himself was by keeping the law or by his own human merit but God's way is only by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. (John 14:6; Acts 4:12)

B. God justifies man "by his grace. . .through faith" V 24-26

JUSTIFIED - "the act of the Holy Spirit whereby He declares a believing sinner to be righteous and acceptable before God by faith in Christ."

GRACE - "something that is needed but not deserved"

PROPITIATION - "an atonement or appeasement for sin"

The only way that any man is accepted by God and can have forgiveness of sin is by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. (John 3:16-18; Matthew 9:22; Genesis 15:6)

C. Man is saved by grace through faith and cannot boast v 27-28

Boasting is the outward verbal expression of pride, and pride was probably the first sin and caused Satan to fall and be cast out of Heaven. In Heaven no one there can boast of himself for we will not deserve to be

there. We can stand there not on our merits but on the merits and finished work of Christ. (Ephesians 2:8-9)

- D. **God is the God of the Jew and the Gentile v 29-30**
First pride is knocked down because salvation is by grace through faith. Then, prejudice is eliminated for God loves all and wants all men to be saved. (Hebrews 2:9; Romans 10:13)

- E. **Faith does not make void the law. . . it establishes it v 31**
The law shows us that we are sinners for it knows we have broken it. Then we know that the penalty for sin is death. (Romans 6:23) But faith then places our sin on Christ who died in our place on the cross of Calvary. Have you trusted Christ as your Saviour?

Teachers' Tip: If you are too big to willingly do the little things, you are probably too little to be trusted with the big things.

Next Memory Verse: Romans 4:3