

I) V9 INTRO: What then Are we better than they Not at all For we have previously

Paul has been building a case for man's guilt before God, as a sinner

II) Up to this point he has primarily argued from creation, conscience, and logic

He now from scripture says both Jew and Gentile alike are guilty before God

III) V9 What then: Are we better than they? *Not at all*. For we have previously

Are we better than the good yet sinful Gentile?

Are we fundamentally better than the good yet sinful Jew?

IV) Am I saying that Christians have a *better nature* than Gentiles and Jews?

Are believers saved because they are just better human beings: *No, not at all*

In terms of advantages, Jews had various blessings and privileges

In terms of nature, they had no advantage

V) V9 For we have *previously charged* both Jews and Greeks that they are

He now presents the fact that *all humanity* is sinful

VI) V10 *As it is written*: There is none righteous no not one

He appeals to the Bible as his foundation for saying what he is about to say

Ps 33:4 For *the word of the Lord* is right and true; He is faithful in all He does

VII) V10 As it is written: There is *none righteous* no not one

No one has ever, outside of Christ, been morally righteous

VIII) Mankind is universally sinful: there is none who is naturally holy or innocent

Our Adamic nature is fallen, and no one can do absolute good

IX) What is the Adamic Nature? A propensity to sin inherited from Adam. Why does man have an Adamic nature. When Adam sinned and fell, the whole human family that followed was automatically “polluted” with a sinful nature and was born with a corrupt heart.

Ro 5:12 Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so *death spread to all men*, because all sinned

1 Co 15:22 For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive

Gal 3:22 The scripture has concluded all under sin

I) V11 Second: There is none who understands

Man has no innate ability to comprehend spiritual truth (1 Co 2:14)

II) V11 Third: There is none who seeks God (to know and do His will)

Ps 14:2 The Lord looked down from heaven upon the children of men (investigating) to see if there were any that did understand, and seek God

III) Every man-made religion *avoids* God, instead of seeking Him

This is because man’s religion is normally based on human effort

IV) God is the number one seeker in the Bible

We are lost sheep in need of a Good Shepherd

Ps 119:176 I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek Your servant, for I do not forget Your commandments.

V) This is illustrated by Jesus’ parable of the Prodigal son (Lu 15)

He speaks of a lost sheep, a lost coin, and finally a lost son

We are the lost sheep, the lost coin, and lost sons

VI) When prophesying about Messiah, Isaiah gave us insight

Is 53:6 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.

VII) V12 They have all turned aside (gone out of the way: in the wrong direction)

Humanity has all left the true path of pursuing God and His will

Ps 14:3 They have all turned aside, they have together become corrupt; There is none who does good, No, not one.

VIII) V12 They are all together become unprofitable (filthy, putrid like sour milk)

All of humanity has *with one consent* fallen to ruin

Man without God does not produce righteous works

IX) V12 There is none who does good, no not one.

None who does that which is morally upright

Ps 14:1 The fool says in his heart there is no God. They are corrupt, their deeds are vile; there is no one who does good.

I) V13 Their throat is an open tomb with their tongues they have practiced deceit

Throat an open grave: Their speech is not only corrupt, but corrupts others

II) Death proceeds from them, for their words are dead

The Romans sometimes compelled a captive to be joined face-to-face with a dead body, and to bear it about until the horrible decaying body fluids destroyed the life of the living victim. Virgil describes this cruel punishment: 'The living and the dead at his command were coupled face to face, and hand to hand; till choked with stench, in loathed embraces tied, the lingering wretches pined away and died.'"

III) He who is spiritually dead cannot speak spiritual life

They are an unsealed sepulcher: Stench and death are present

IV) With *their tongues* they have practiced deceit (they are smooth liars)
Ps 5:9

They are smooth liars because they practice lying

A person's character is revealed by the way that they speak

V) V13 The poison of asps (cobras) is *under their lips* whose mouth is

full

The poison is in a bag, under the tooth that discharges the venom

When the unsaved preach there is danger: their words are spiritual poison

VI) Jesus said this when some Pharisees said He served Beelzebub

Mt 12:34 *Brood of vipers!* How can you, being evil, *speak good things?* For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.

Pr 10:32 The lips of the righteous know what is fitting, but the mouth of the wicked *only what is perverse*

VII) V14 Whose mouth is full of cursing (reproaching) and bitterness (cruelty)

Paraphrase: Ps 10:7: They only desire the worst for people

Bitterness: Openly expressed emotional hostility

VIII) They use their speech to harm and hurt others

Pr 12:18 There is one who speaks like the *piercings of a sword*, But the tongue of the wise promotes health.

I) V15-16 Their feet are swift to shed blood destruction and misery are in their

(Is 59:7-8) Their feet are swift: They are eager to commit terrible sins

II) They leave devastation in their wake because they are violent and angry

This kind of behavior has become common place in our day

2 Ti 3:1 Know this, that in the last day perilous times will come:

V3 unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, *brutal*, despisers of good

III) V17 And the way of peace *they have not known*

They have not sought the peace *of* God or peace *with* God

As a result, they have no peace and are unfamiliar with what it truly is

IV) They have not opened to God's way for peace

Is 57:21 "There is no peace," Says my God, "for the wicked."

Mt 7:14 Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.

V) Being at war with God, they have refused the peace offered to them

This peace is found in the gospel of reconciliation

VI) The gospel calls for unconditional surrender to God and results in peace

Ro 5:1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, *we have peace with* God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

VII) The reason they have no peace is because they have no fear of God

Matthew Henry: The root of religion is the fear of God reigning in the heart...

Pr 3:7 Be not wise in your own eyes: fear the LORD and depart from evil.

Pr 14:27 The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life, To turn one away from the snares of death

VIII) V19-20 Now we know that whatever the law says it says to those who are

Paul now closes the door on all of humanity: all stand guilty before God

His final statement: You cannot be saved if you try to keep the Law

IX) You stand condemned in the law; this is why we need God's grace

I) Whether a person has an internal moral code or written code, they break it

Those who've received the written code are guilty before the Lord (2:15, 3:2)

Because all people violate standards, all stand guilty before God

II) V20 Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight

Even if we try very hard to be very good, we still fall short of God's glory

III) The law of Moses reveals to us what sin is and our guilt before God
Ro 7:7 What shall we say, then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! Indeed I would not have known what sin was except through the law. For I would not have known what coveting really was if the law had not said, "Do not covet."

IV) Because this is true the law actually condemns and does not save
It reveals to us how far we fall short of God's standards

V) It reveals what sin is, shows how we have broken it, and then sentences us
Unless God had done this for us, we would never realize our guilt before Him

VI) No matter how good we are compared to others we still fall short
Is 64:6 But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.

VII) This is why we are thankful for His grace toward us: it changes everything
Titus 3:4-7 But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

VIII) V21-22 But now the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ
Paul now balances the judgment of God with the Mercy of God
Question: If God is angry about sin, why does He not immediately judge

Lam. 3:22-23 It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every

morning: great is thy faithfulness

I) V21-22 But *now* the righteousness of God *apart from the Law* is revealed

Righteousness is not gained by keeping any kind of moral law

II) This is because gaining it in this way results in self-righteousness
It becomes something that is *outward*, and not inward

III) V22 Even the *righteousness of God* which is through faith in Jesus Christ to

This is the gospel message: Righteousness *comes by faith* and not works

2 Co 5:21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

IV) God requires a *righteousness* that *He provides*, not our efforts to produce it

Is 61:10 I delight greatly in the LORD; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

V) This is not the result of our *own efforts* but is received in faith

Gal 2:16 knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified.

VI) V23 For *all (humanity) have sinned* and fall short of the glory of God

Have *sinned* (missed the mark; failed to hit the bullseye)

Fall short: Come in last, to be inferior: No one has glory like

God

Eccl 7:20 For there is not a just man on earth who does good *and does not sin*

VII) Because they *miss the mark*, they fall short of the glory of God

To fall short of the glory of God is to fail to receive the honor God gives

VIII) This is because they desire the praise of man

Jn 12:42-43 Nevertheless, many even of the authorities believed in him, but for fear of the Pharisees they did not confess it, so that they would not be put out of the synagogue; *for they loved the glory that comes from man* more than the glory that comes from God.

I) Their master passion is to be *admired* and *honored* by human beings

This desire is driven by their sin and disqualifies them from honor from God

Jn 5:44 How can you believe if you accept glory from one another, yet do not seek the glory *that comes from the only God*?

II) V24 Being *justified* freely by *His grace* through the redemption that is in Christ

We can't be justified by trying to obey the Law of Moses but by faith in Jesus

III) *Justified*: To declare the rightness of something or someone

God absolves us from sin, frees us from its penalty, and makes us righteous

Definition: By justification, the sinner is declared righteous by God because the sinner has placed faith in Jesus. This has resulted because in Jesus, he has come into a righteous relationship with God, and as a result God has declared him to be not guilty because of Jesus

IV) This comes through the *redemption* (ransoming) that is in Christ Jesus

1 Pe. 1:18-19 For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.

V) V25 Whom God *set forth* to be a *propitiation* by His blood through faith to

Set forth (exhibited): Redemption was openly demonstrated on at Calvary

Propitiation: Satisfaction, or appeasement of anger; atoning sacrifice

VI) Christianity gave a new insight into propitiation

a) George Herbert Morrison wrote: We read in the NT of Christ being offered as a propitiation for our sins, and our thoughts go back to pagan faiths, where men tried to appease their angry gods; but the tremendous difference is that in all these faiths man had to provide the propitiation; in the Christian faith God provides it. He does not ask me for an atoning sacrifice; He gives the atoning sacrifice, and He gives it because He loves the world and wills not that any man should perish...It is because He is so passionately eager to forgive that God sent His son to die.

VII) God demonstrated His righteousness in the death of Jesus

He showed that He hated sin and would deal with it

I) V25 in doing so God passed over the sins that were previously committed

**By doing so He made it possible for all past sins to be forgiven
In giving Jesus, He revealed His righteousness and rejection of**

sin

Through Jesus, He revealed His grace, mercy, and love for the sinner

II) From Adam and Eve to the flood, throughout history, has been patient

Ps 78:38-39 Yet He was merciful; He forgave their iniquities and did not destroy them. Time after time He restrained his anger and did not stir up His full wrath. He remembered that they were but flesh, a passing breeze that does not return.

III) V26 To demonstrate at the present time His righteousness that He might be

Man can now see that He is both Just, and our Justifier

How did He do this: By drawing us to Himself through the Cross of Jesus

IV) V27-28 Where is the boasting then It is excluded By what Law of works

Man could not come to God in his own way: He had to come by

Jesus

We are made right by faith in Jesus, the One who fully satisfied His Father

V) V29-30 Or is He the God of *the Jews only*? Is He not also the God of the

**1 Co 10:26 The earth is the Lord's, all it contains
There is one God, who works consistently**

**VI) Jew and Gentile both come to God *by* and *through* faith in Jesus
As a Jewish believer, Paul made this clear**

Phil 3:9 (I have lost all things that I may gain Christ) and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness *from the law*, but that which is through *faith in Christ*, the righteousness from God *on the basis of faith*

VI) V31 Do we then make void the law *through faith*?

Was the law of Moses useless, then and now?

No: Jesus came to fulfill it, that is why we need Him

Gal 3:24 So the law was put in charge to lead us to Christ that we might be justified by faith