

Offer Hope. Grow in Community. Be the Church.

## Romans 3:9-20: Sinners by Nature and by Choice

Embracing a difficult/ugly truth...

(9)

"What is better to be a Jew (who got the law from God) but failed to obey it?

"Or to not be Jewish (a Gentile) and just sin and suppress the fact that there is a God?"

What is better? Neither! None at all.

(10)

...not even one

(11)

There is no one who understands – no one who seeks...

"No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him" (John 6:44a).

(12)

You (apart from God) can do nothing good.

Jumping to Hawaii



(13-18)

Paul is quoting passages about us from the OT. We are the "their". Every human being, this is the ugly truth about us. This is our story. This is the ugly thing I want you to embrace because without embracing it there is no hope for you or for me.

(19-20)

The reason God gave the law and the commandments was to with total clarity show us who we are, and who we are is not pretty. We don't get a trophy for this. We stand condemned completely and there is no hope.

Jesus made the same thing clear...

If you then, <u>though you are evil</u>, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!" (Luke 11:13)

"It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners." (Mark 2:17)

ἴδε: A Command: Look! See! Pay Attention! Take Notice of this!

"Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"
(John 1:29)

Jesus came for sinners. He came to take sin away from sinners. If you understand that you are worthless sinner, that there is no righteousness in you at all, that you didn't even come close, that you have nothing to offer Him, that you are a sinner fully, ... then He came for you. He is the doctor for your sickness. He is the lamb of God who can take away that sin. The gospel starts off with a hard truth. We don't deserve Him because we are sinners, but if you can embrace that ugly truth about yourself, then you are ready to be saved!

- 1. Are you ready for Jesus, the Lamb of God, to take away your sins?
- 2. Understand and share truth.

We believe that God created Adam and Eve in His image, but they sinned when tempted by Satan. In union with Adam, human beings are sinners by nature and by choice, alienated from God, and under His wrath. Only through God's saving work in Jesus Christ can we be rescued, reconciled and renewed. (Hope Community Church, Statement of Faith #3)

## Questions for personal and home group application:

Do you think that Christians today have lost sight of the hatefulness of sin to a large extent? Have unbelievers also lost sight of this? Do you think that we as Christians have lost sight of the thoroughgoing pervasiveness of sin in unbelievers, of the truth that the greatest problem of the human race, and of all societies and civilizations, is not lack of education or lack of communication or lack of material well-being, but sin against God?