

Romans 3:9-20
For the week of October 30, 2022

Reflection

1. What were some of the takeaways, for you, from Sunday's sermon?

2. Were there questions, comments, concerns...?

'Well then,' Paul proceeds, 'you have said that it is an advantage to belong to the Jewish nation. Does it not follow that we Jews are superior to those Gentiles who lack the privileges we enjoy?' 'No indeed,' says Paul; 'we may have received greater advantages, but we are in fact in no better case than they are. They have sinned, it is true; but then, so have we. All, Jews and Gentiles alike, are bound to plead guilty before the bar of God. The situation is well summed up in the words of Scripture.'¹

What is written in the law (here meaning the Hebrew Bible as a whole) applies naturally to the people of the law. The law brings out men and women's sinfulness but does nothing to cure it. Jews as well as Gentiles, then, have to confess themselves morally bankrupt. If there is any hope for either group, it can be found only in the mercy of God and not in any claim that individuals or nations may try to establish on him. Because of the universal fact of sin, the way of acceptance with God by reason of our works of righteousness is closed²

Observation (vs. 9)

3. What is Paul saying? (You can use what is written above to help)

Interpretation

4. Paul makes the argument that we are all "under sin". How do you define sin? Is it only behavior? Why or why not?

¹ F. F. Bruce, [*Romans: An Introduction and Commentary*](#), vol. 6, Tyndale New Testament Commentaries (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1985), 102–103.

² F. F. Bruce, [*Romans: An Introduction and Commentary*](#), vol. 6, Tyndale New Testament Commentaries (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1985), 103.

Look at the following verses:

Proverbs 20:9 –

Galatians 3:22 –

Romans 3:23 –

I John 1:8, 10 –

Application

5. Knowing that we are all "under sin", look at Romans 12:3. How should this be applied to your life?

Observation (vs. 10-18)

6. Summarize these verses.

Interpretation

7. Paul quotes from Psalm 14:1-3, 53:1-3, Psalm 5:9, 140:3, Psalm 10:7, Proverbs 1:16, Isaiah 59:7-8, and Psalm 36:1. What is the purpose of Paul quoting from the Old Testament?

Application

8. Verse 18 says, "There is no fear of God before their eyes". What does fear of God mean to you? How do you live consistently in the fear of God?

Observation (vs. 19)

9. What is Paul saying?

Interpretation

10. Read the command of Christ in Luke 10:27. How will God judge these four aspects of our lives?

Application

11. How can you live out Luke 10:27?

Observation (vs. 20)

12. What is the gist of this verse?

Interpretation

13. Why is a "works" based faith futile?

14. How does the law make a person conscious of sin?

Application

15. As Paul is "setting up" his readers for the need for a Savior, how have these verses helped you to appreciate God's saving grace in your life?