

Romans 3:9-20 Guilty As Charged... But God

In Romans 3:9–21, Paul brings every person into the courtroom of God and closes every mouth. The Law does not justify us; it exposes our guilt and leaves us with no defense. But when the sentence seems certain, the glory of the gospel breaks in: “But now...” the righteousness of God is revealed through Christ.

Topic- Sin, Salvation, Gospel, Grace

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*Boot Camp

HUMANITY ON TRIAL:

- 1. The Evidence Presented — 1:18–2:29
- 2. The Cross-Examination — 3:1–8
- 3. The Closing Argument — 3:9–18

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“Are we better”

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3:10-18 “The List”

Romans 3:10 — As it is written: “There is none righteous, no, not one;
-Ecclesiastes 7:20 — For there is not a just man on earth who does good And does not sin.

Romans 3:11-12 — 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.”

-Psalm 14:2-3 — 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.

Romans 3:13a — Their throat is an open tomb; With their tongues they have practiced deceit;
-Psalm 5:9b — ...Their throat is an open tomb; They flatter with their tongue.

Romans 3:13b — The poison of asps is under their lips;
-Psalm 140:3 — They sharpen their tongues like a serpent; The poison of asps is under their lips.

Romans 3:14 — Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness.

-Psalm 10:7 — His mouth is full of cursing and deceit and oppression

Romans 3:15–17 — Their feet are swift to shed blood; Destruction and misery are in their ways; And the way of peace they have not known.

-Isaiah 59:7–8 — 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...

Romans 3:18 — There is no fear of God before their eyes.

-Psalm 36:1 — ...concerning the transgression of the wicked: There is no fear of God before his eyes.

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“There is no fear of God before their eyes.”

Samson

-Moses

-Jonah

-David

-Babylon & Rome

Proverbs 1:7 — The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge...

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-Proverbs 10:27 — The fear of the LORD prolongs days...

-Proverbs 14:27 — The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life...

-Proverbs 19:23 — The fear of the LORD leads to life, And he who has it will abide in satisfaction...

-Proverbs 22:4 — By humility and the fear of the LORD are riches and honor and life.

Proverbs 1:29-31 — Because they hated knowledge And did not choose the fear of the LORD, They would have none of my counsel And despised my every rebuke. Therefore they shall eat the fruit of their own way, And be filled to the full with their own fancies.

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WHOLE BODY EFFECTED BY SIN:

- Throat (v. 13a) — "an open tomb"

- Tongue (v. 13b) — "they have practiced deceit"

- Lips (v. 13c) — "the poison of asps"

- Mouth (v. 14) — "full of cursing and bitterness"

- Feet (v. 15) — "swift to shed blood"

- Eyes (v. 18) — "no fear of God before them"

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- 4. The Verdict Delivered — 3:19–20

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‘it says to those who are under the law’

Romans 6:14b — ...for you are not under law but under grace.

V9: “For we have previously charged both Jews and Greeks that they are all under sin.”

V19 Verdict for the Jews

V20 For the Gentiles

“that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.”

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SEVEN ALL ENCOMPASSING STATEMENTS:

- All (v. 9) — "all under sin"
- None (v. 10) — "none righteous, no, not one"
- None (v. 11a) — "none who understands"
- None (v. 11b) — "none who seeks after God"
- All (v. 12a) — "all turned aside"
- None (v. 12c) — "none who does good, no, not one"
- All (v. 19) — "all the world... guilty before God"

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*Yehiel Dinur

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- 2. The Cross-Examination — 3:1–8
- 3. The Closing Argument — 3:9–18
- 4. The Verdict Delivered — 3:19–20
- 5. The Sentence Expected...

-But Now...

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THE FIVE BIGGEST "BUTS" OF THE BIBLE:

-5) Genesis 50:20 — "But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good..."

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4) 1 Corinthians 6:11 — "But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified..."

1 Corinthians 6:9-10 — Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.

-1 Corinthians 6:11 — And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

THE FIVE BIGGEST "BUTS" OF THE BIBLE:

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2) Ephesians 2:4 — "But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ"

Ephesians 2:1-3 — And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

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1) Romans 3:21-22 — But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed... through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe...

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*MLJ "The real trouble with the miserable Christian is that he has never been truly made miserable because of conviction of sin; he has bypassed the essential preliminary to joy."

*MLJ- "If you have never realized your guilt before God, you will never have joy in Christ. It is impossible."

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*Spurgeon: "While they are congratulating themselves... I have to lie humbly at the foot of Christ's cross, and marvel that I am saved at all."

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**John Newton: "My memory is nearly gone; but I remember two things: that I am a great sinner, and that Christ is a great Saviour."

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Do you believe you are deserving of wrath?

-Do you truly feel in need of saving?

Are you trusting yourself?

-Have you been disappointed lately?

-Who failed?

The path to peace and joy only comes through absolute surrender.

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Until we are truly brought low by the guilt of sin, we will never truly rejoice in the righteousness of God through Christ.