

**TIME OF REFLECTION**

“When man subverted order he did a great deal more than merely fall away from the rationality of his nature... he brought disorder into the divine order, and presents the unhappy spectacle of a being in revolt against Being. ...Every time a man sins he renews this act of revolt and prefers himself to God; in thus preferring himself, he separates himself from God; and in separating himself, he deprives himself of the sole end in which he can find beatitude and by that very fact condemns himself to misery.”

~Etienne Gilson (1884-1978), French philosopher and scholar

“Our knowledge of God is paradoxically not of him as the object of our scrutiny, but of ourselves as utterly dependent on his saving and merciful knowledge of us.”

~Thomas Merton (1915-1968), American Trappist monk, theologian, writer and social activist

“Some of us who seem quite nice people may, in fact, have made so little use of a good heredity and a good upbringing that we are really worse than those whom we regard as fiends....That is why Christians are told not to judge. We see only the results which a man’s choices make out of his raw material. But God does not judge him on the raw material at all, but on what he has done with it. Most of the man’s psychological make-up is probably due to his body: when his body dies all that will fall off him, and the real central man, the thing that chose, that made the best or the worst out of this material, will stand naked. All sorts of nice things which we thought our own, but which were really due to a good digestion, will fall off some of us: all sorts of nasty things which were due to complexes or bad health will fall off others. We shall then, for the first time, see every one as he really was. There will be surprises.”

~C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

**SERMON** – “No More Excuses” – *Pastor Ryan Bouton*

**SERMON PASSAGE** – *Romans 3:9-20 (ESV)*

<sup>9</sup> What then? Are we Jews any better off? No, not at all. For we have already charged that all, both Jews and Greeks, are under sin, <sup>10</sup> as it is written:

“None is righteous, no, not one;

<sup>11</sup> no one understands;

no one seeks for God.

<sup>12</sup> All have turned aside; together they have become worthless;

no one does good,

not even one.”

<sup>13</sup> “Their throat is an open grave;

they use their tongues to deceive.”

“The venom of asps is under their lips.”

<sup>14</sup> “Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness.”

<sup>15</sup> “Their feet are swift to shed blood;

<sup>16</sup> in their paths are ruin and misery,

<sup>17</sup> and the way of peace they have not known.”

<sup>18</sup> “There is no fear of God before their eyes.”

<sup>19</sup> Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. <sup>20</sup> For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.