



**What Sin Has Done to Us  
Why We All Need Jesus!  
Part 2  
Romans 3:9-20**

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Romans 3:9–20

“What then? Are we better than they? Not at all; for we have already charged that **both Jews and Greeks are all under sin**; as it is written: **“THERE IS NO RIGHTEOUS PERSON, NOT EVEN ONE; THERE IS NO ONE WHO UNDERSTANDS, THERE IS NO ONE WHO SEEKS OUT GOD; THEY HAVE ALL TURNED ASIDE, TOGETHER THEY HAVE BECOME CORRUPT; THERE IS NO ONE WHO DOES**



**GOOD, THERE IS NOT EVEN ONE.” “THEIR THROAT IS AN OPEN GRAVE, WITH THEIR TONGUES THEY KEEP DECEIVING,” “THE VENOM OF ASPS IS UNDER THEIR LIPS”; “THEIR MOUTH IS FULL OF CURSING AND BITTERNESS”; “THEIR FEET ARE SWIFT TO SHED BLOOD, DESTRUCTION AND MISERY ARE IN THEIR PATHS, AND THEY HAVE NOT KNOWN THE WAY OF PEACE.” “THERE IS NO FEAR OF GOD BEFORE THEIR EYES.”** Now we know that whatever the Law says, it speaks to those who are under the Law, so that every mouth may be closed and all the world may become accountable to God; because by the works of the Law none of mankind will be justified in His sight; for through the Law comes knowledge of sin.” (NASB 2020)

We are in the middle of Paul's indictment of the entire human race. He has not excluded anyone. Before Jesus, we were all here.

The charges leveled in the court are as follows:

1. We, all of us, the entire human race without any exception at all, are under sin.
2. None of us are righteous on our own and none of us even can understand, on our own, that we are not righteous.
3. There is no one who seeks after God. No one.
4. We have all turned aside and are acting like we are looking for God, well not so much for God but we do want to feel good about ourselves, so without the map, the Bible, we try to fill that God shaped hole (Ecclesiastes 3:11) we all have with stuff, people, or religion.
5. We have become and are in the process of corrupting ourselves. Without Jesus, the downward spiral is alive and well.
6. There is no one who does good. Without Christ, none of us are “good.” We are not even capable of it without Jesus. Depraved, yes, good, not so much.

And now from the Spiritual Clinic, we discover what this all means to us.

7. We open our mouth and say ahh and discover we have dead man walking mouth. Paul calls “open grave” mouth. There is no smell of life at all, just death.
8. We are just like the one we followed before Jesus, that would be Satan, and as such, are inveterate liars and deceivers. For those not following Jesus, that is who they are.
9. And not only that, but when we speak, we kill. Our words are not oriented towards life but death, they are poisonous. Bringing us to:

Romans 3:14

“THEIR MOUTH IS FULL OF CURSING AND BITTERNESS;” (NASB 2020)

This would indeed be the 10th charge levelled at fallen man. And it too centers on our tongue. I am beginning to understand the angst of the half-brother of Jesus about the tongue. Many times we say good things or say nothing at all. But there is problem.

Look at it this way, with the tongue, the engine is always running and always ready to go. And we have a choice of placing the tongue on an automatic or a stick shift. For those of you who do not know what a stick shift is, it is something that those of us who are dinosaurs used in order to shift gears in a car while we drove. We would use a clutch to disengage the transmission and shift gears and then reengage the transmission. Do it too soon and you have problems, do it too late, problems again. It requires attention to what you are doing and either a really good ear listening to the engine or a tachometer to tell you when to shift. You have to be thinking about what you are doing all the time. Our tongues should be on this type of operation.

But then there is the automatic transmission. You just drive and the transmission shifts for you. No reason to think about or be aware about anything going on with the speed of the engine or the transmission,



unless it doesn't work. To use an automatic, well it does not require your constant attention to what gear you are in, so you can go speeding off doing whatever without worrying about having to shift gears. You do not have to have your brain engaged on this.

Does the brain need to engage in order to talk, technically yes, but sometimes we blurt out things and have not considered the impact of our words. We are on automatic. We must treat the tongue like we would a manual transmission. Engage brain first.

James 3:2–12

“For we all stumble in many ways; **if someone does not stumble in what he says, he is a mature man who can bridle his whole body.** If we put a bit into a horse's mouth to make it obey us, we control its whole body as well. And think of a ship—although it is huge and is driven by strong winds, yet the pilot can steer it wherever he wants with just a small rudder. **So too the tongue is a tiny part of the body, yet it boasts great things. See how a little fire sets a whole forest ablaze! Yes, the tongue is a fire, a world of wickedness. The tongue is so placed in our body that it defiles every part of it, setting ablaze the whole of our life; and it is set on fire by Gei-Hinnom itself.** For people have tamed and continue to tame all kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and sea creatures; but **the tongue no one can tame—it is an unstable and evil thing, full of death-dealing poison! With it we bless ADONAI, the Father; and with it we curse people, who were made in the image of God.** Out of the same mouth come blessing and cursing! Brothers, it isn't right for things to be this way. A spring doesn't send both fresh and bitter water from the same opening, does it? Can a fig tree yield olives, my brothers? or a grapevine, figs? Neither does salt water produce fresh.” (CJB)

In our culture today, cursing is accepted as normal. That has been the case since the fall, Satan used his tongue to pollute God's blessings.

The tongue brought us the fall. And the very first demonstration, post fall was the tongue involved in passing the buck. Poison was spreading already. Eve blamed the Nacash, Adam blamed Eve.

How full of cursing is our mouth, really? Is it as bad as Paul says. Nope, worse. “F” bombs used to be incredibly rare, unless you were in the military. The “F” bomb struck me as the adjective of choice there, and I met folks who were incredibly adept at using it in all circumstances. But today, it is everywhere. I have heard it come from kids, intentionally not accidentally. Formally bleeped out on television, not any longer.

Jesus warned us about lawlessness being a condition of the end of the age. Yep, the tongue today provides evidence of that.

James tells us that for many who are followers of Jesus, the tongue is not yet under control. “This inconsistency is seen in that it is the source of both blessing and cursing. In verse 9, the word we makes it true of mankind in general. The blessing of God is, of course, the highest use of the tongue. The Greek word for bless means “to speak well of,” “to extol,” and when used of God, it means to celebrate His Name and acts with praise. Calling Him Lord, emphasizes God's authority and sovereignty. Calling Him Father, emphasizes God's love and compassion. But also with the same tongue curse we men. The word we makes this also true of mankind in general. The word curse means, “to wish someone ill will.”” (Fruchtenbaum 1983, 29)

Look at the tongue this way, when we are placed under stress, what comes out? How much of us does the Holy Spirit have? How far are we in our walk and becoming more like Jesus? Did you know that we can grieve the Holy Spirit with our mouth, with what we blurt out. Paul tells us a bit more.



Ephesians 4:29–5:2

**“Let no harmful language come from your mouth, only good words that are helpful in meeting the need, words that will benefit those who hear them. Don’t cause grief to God’s Ruach HaKodesh, for he has stamped you as his property until the day of final redemption.** Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, violent assertiveness and slander, along with all spitefulness. Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted; and forgive each other, just as in the Messiah God has also forgiven you. So imitate God, as his dear children; and live a life of love, just as also the Messiah loved us, indeed, on our behalf gave himself up as an offering, as a slaughtered sacrifice to God with a pleasing fragrance.” (CJB)

Colossians 4:5–6

**“Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.”** (ESV)

There are indeed those times where, while being cut off by someone on I95, rather than asking the Lord to protect them and teach them to drive, instead, my speech is not very gracious. And then the Holy Spirit says, “Ken, what did you just say?” Time to repent, again.

As a follower of Jesus Christ, the goal for us, with our tongue is to allow the Holy Spirit to control it. When He does, gracious speech is the result. When He doesn’t control my speech, then I am then totally capable of grieving, actually causing physical pain, to the God of the universe in the person of the Holy Spirit. I pray everyday that the Lord control my tongue.

Jesus did indeed have something to say about the tongue.

Matthew 12:36–37

**“I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak, for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.”** (ESV)

Gary Henry reminds us that even as followers of Jesus, “we will be held accountable for every idle word. But what are “idle” (careless) words? The Greek term here, argos, means useless or unproductive. Idle words are empty and without good effect. Often they are carelessly spoken, without due consideration. Jesus is clear that such thoughtless speech is a serious matter. Words are not “neutral.” They are intended to be used for the edification of the hearer (Ephesians 4:29), and when they do not accomplish that purpose, they are harmful. It is a mistake to try to wave aside idle talk with the excuse that we didn’t “mean” what we said. The fact that we didn’t mean it does not free us from the responsibility of having said it. Idle words do no less damage for being careless (Proverbs 26:18, 19). (Henry 1994, 13)

There is an incredibly strong link between what we are inside and what we we say on the outside. When we come to Christ, the Holy Spirit begins the process of conforming us to Christ, and that is a huge job. As we grow and become more like Jesus, He not only conforms us mentally to Himself, but also verbally. Changes can, but usually do not happen, overnight. We are all works in progress. For those of us still working with the Holy Spirit about our mouth, we want to keep short accounts and allow the Spirit to continue to work in us. That means being soft hearted and seeking the Lord for His forgiveness when we blow it, and also asking forgiveness from those, if possible, we may have just flamed inadvertently.

1 John 1:9

**“But if we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous, forgiving us our sins and cleansing us from all unrighteousness.”** (NET 2nd ed.)

Forgiven of the flame, the indiscretion, the poor word choice, the totally unneeded cursing, we are restored to fellowship, the sin is forgiven, and forgotten.



Jeremiah 31:34

“And they will not need to teach their neighbors, nor will they need to teach their relatives, saying, ‘You should know the LORD.’ For everyone, from the least to the greatest, will know me already,” says the LORD. “**And I will forgive their wickedness, and I will never again remember their sins.**” (NLT)

God always has and always will know all things. However, God has canceled the debt and will never demand payment. He has promised never to use our sin against us or to treat us as if the reality of our sin were present in his mind. As Jay Adams put it, God’s promise not to remember means he will bury our sins “and not exhume the bones to beat you over the head with them. [God declares] I will never use these sins against you.” (Storms 2021, 203)

If changes need to be made in our words, such changes must be made from the “inside out.” Our hearts need to be transformed into hearts that will overflow in good words. We begin that by taking responsibility for every word we speak. (Henry 1994, 13)

Romans 12:2

“**And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is,** that which is good and acceptable and perfect.” (NASB 2020)

I get how difficult this will be, it’s tough for me. In our culture, people no longer believe that doing a good job is a requirement for continued employment. Many times, I discover I am once again having to rely on the Lord for my mouth because of the failure of some employee who neglects to actually do their job. Will this get better, not hardly, as we are in the last days, Satan is doing all that he can to keep those of us who want to be like Jesus, having to continually deal with potential stumbling blocks. We must be wearing our armor at all times.

1 Peter 5:8

“Be sober and alert. Your enemy the devil, like a roaring lion, is on the prowl looking for someone to devour.” (NET 2nd ed.)

Romans 3:15

“**THEIR FEET ARE SWIFT TO SHED BLOOD,**” (NASB 2020)

Charge 11 and let’s refer to the unabridged version that Paul is quoting here.

Isaiah 59:7–8

“**Their feet run to evil, And they hurry to shed innocent blood;** Their thoughts are thoughts of wrongdoing, Devastation and destruction are in their paths. They do not know the way of peace, And there is no justice in their tracks; They have made their paths crooked, Whoever walks on them does not know peace.” (NASB 2020)

Have you noticed the change in our culture the past 6 years or so?

There are now groups in the west who turn to violence and do so first rather than last. These groups, rather than engage in any dialogue at all, immediately turn to arson, beatings, and other forms of violence.

All to be expected by a world that has embraced abortion on demand and is now turning towards and embracing euthanasia.

As we learned with Charlie Kirk, martyrdom is now a real possibility in our nation as well for all who dare to live a Biblical worldview.



This indictment from Paul shows us that as a culture, we are doing the same as those who came before us as reflected with their own atrocities. The common factor, a low view of human life.

That attitude is from Satan, not the Lord. God made us in His image and intended us to be His imagers here on this planet but then the fall in Genesis 3 changed that. However, we are still made in His image. It is why He works through us. Per Michael Heiser.

The working relationship between God and humankind, before and after the fall, involves genuine, meaningful participation on the part of God's human imagers. This is most transparently seen as God works through figures like Moses, Joshua, David, Solomon, the prophets, and the apostles. But the pattern extends to us, to all believers. There is nothing we do that God could not accomplish himself. But he has not chosen that method. Rather, he tells us what his will is and commands his loyal children to get the job done. (Heiser 2015, 51-52)

But Satan hates everything made by God, and anyone who serves and follows God. His followers may say they value human life, but do they really? How deep is the culture? And the question these days is, how many are really true followers?

Mauthausen in Austria was a Nazi concentration camp where, between 1938 and 1945, over 110,000 people were brutally killed to help build the Nazis' idea of heaven on earth. There are monuments to the many Jews and non-Jews who died. What happened in Mauthausen shows the lowest possible view of human life. (Koop and Schaeffer 1983, 49)

This is what happens when a Biblical worldview is jettisoned in favor of a Christian Nationalistic religious worldview which places Jesus on the outside. And where was the church when this was taking place? The same place many in the "church" are at today, enjoying life and once again, embracing the same old heretical viewpoints as were embraced in Nazi Germany. And eyeing the same religious worldview.

"To the surprise and the dismay of most Christians, it is probable that no repellent political figure in modern times ever professed faith in Christianity more than Adolf Hitler. No public official ever championed the separation of church and state more fervently than the Führer. And it is unlikely that any religious leader promoted putting faith into action with more exuberance than the leader of the National Socialist Party. Consider a small sample of Hitler's words: This "Winter Help Work" [a social "outreach" program] is also in the deepest sense a Christian work. When I see, as I so often do, poorly clad girls collecting with such infinite patience in order to care for those who are suffering from the cold while they themselves are shivering with cold, then I have the feeling that they are all apostles of a Christianity—and in truth of a Christianity which can say with greater right than any other: this is the Christianity of an honest confession, for behind it stand not words but deeds.

For these substantive reasons and many more (not always so warmly swaddled in biblical ideals), the German Catholic as well as the "evangelical" church failed to discern a glaring and provocative manifestation of Antichrist in their midst. The best and the brightest, the priests and the theologians, all were caught up in the rush to support the cause of National Socialism. German leaders, both spiritual and political, stood side by side to bring the Fatherland back from the brink. And Adolf Hitler inspired them to come together for the common cause." (Krieger and Woodward 2014, Kindle Location 2832)

One of the things seen in Germany, prior to the rise of Hitler to power, was an effort to come up with a plan to deal with those who were chronically ill. And they came up with one.

We refer to it today as Physician Assisted Suicide, except it was imposed from the state. Welcome to Canada. "The first to be killed were the aged, the infirm, the senile and mentally retarded, and defective



children. Eventually, as World War II approached, the doomed undesirables included epileptics, World War I amputees, children with badly modeled ears, and even bed wetters.

Physicians took part in this planning on matters of life and death to save society's money." (Koop and Schaeffer 1983, 66-67)

Consider that first we see the language devolve into barbarism, and what follows behind soon after is an acting out of the language in terms of barbaric action. Instead of talking about it any longer, they instead have turned towards violent acts. And Paul is telling us that was the case even in his day.

Our world today needs Jesus, that is how you end 437,000 homicides across the globe every year. That is how you end the worship of Molech. "According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), almost half of all pregnancies – 121 million – are unintended every year. Of these unwanted pregnancies, 6 out of 10 end in an induced abortion.

This means that an estimated 73 million abortions are carried out worldwide every year. (Abortion Data 2026)

The world needs Jesus. Euthanasia rates vary significantly by jurisdiction and have generally increased over time.

Netherlands: 9,958 euthanasia deaths in 2024, representing about 5.3% of all deaths — up from 1,882 in 2002 (first year of legalization). In 2023, 9,068 deaths were reported (5.4% of all deaths). Steady annual increases continue.

Belgium: 3,991 euthanasia deaths in 2024, representing 3.6% of all deaths — up 16.6% from 2023. In 2025, Belgium recorded 4,486 euthanasia deaths, a further 12.4% increase. Approximately 1 in 25 deaths in Belgium is now by euthanasia.

Canada: Over 15,000 MAID deaths in 2023, about 4.7% of all deaths — up from 4.1% in 2022 and 3.3% in 2021. Canada has seen the fastest growth in assisted dying numbers globally. (Euthanasia 101 2026)

Violence has been around since Genesis 3, but today, we are in the last days, and Paul told Timothy, and us, what to look out for.

2 Timothy 3:1–5

**"Remember that there will be difficult times in the last days. People will be selfish, greedy, boastful, and conceited; they will be insulting, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, and irreligious; they will be unkind, merciless, slanderers, violent, and fierce; they will hate the good; they will be treacherous, reckless, and swollen with pride; they will love pleasure rather than God; they will hold to the outward form of our religion, but reject its real power. Keep away from such people."** (GNB)

The only difference here though, is Paul is not warning about the unbeliever, here, it is the believer who has defected from the faith. And we do indeed see that.

Our culture is running, globally, as fast as possible into the abyss we see in the book of Revelation. Violence and murder are part of that. Even after the plagues of the Tribulation, we still see where man is.

Revelation 9:21

**"nor did they repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts."** (ESV)



Rescue ministries are still in evidence across the planet attempting to save the unborn as well as those the state has decided are no longer needed.

Proverbs 24:11–12

**“Rescue those who are unjustly sentenced to die; save them as they stagger to their death. Don’t excuse yourself by saying, “Look, we didn’t know.” For God understands all hearts, and he sees you. He who guards your soul knows you knew. He will repay all people as their actions deserve.”** (NLT)

Pray for those around us who are being sucked into the lies of the enemy. We all need Jesus desperately.

This brings us to the next charge.

Romans 3:16

**“DESTRUCTION AND MISERY ARE IN THEIR PATHS,”** (NASB 2020)

This is an expected outcome for charge 12. When you move from mere words to violent actions there is indeed destruction and misery in your wake. For the person who has rejected the Lord and opted to live for self, as you look at their legacy, what is it that hits hard? They have taken the broad path, obviously.

Matthew 7:13–14

**“Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it.** For the gate is narrow and the way is constricted that leads to life, and there are few who find it.” (NASB 2020)

What we learn from Jesus is this broad path of destruction, misery, death and self-love is the choice of the majority of mankind. The two words here, destruction σύντριμμα (suntrimma) and misery ταλαιπωρία (talaiporia) talks about what those who are unsaved, are all about. This comes from Isaiah 59:7.

Isaiah 59:7

“Their feet run to evil, And they hurry to shed innocent blood; Their thoughts are thoughts of wrongdoing, Devastation and destruction are in their paths.” (NASB 2020)

When you look at the meaning of the two words, from the Greek, you obtain the full impact of what Paul is saying here.

Destruction, (suntrimma) “broken, shattered, ruin”—a compound word that means breaking into pieces) is similar to the concept of “abusive” people who destroy others.

“Misery” (talaiporia), “an emotional condition that arises from inner or outer torment, wretchedness,”) is the result of selfish, self-centered sinful actions or reactions from one sinner against another. (Fanning 2012, 57)

And naturally enough, the aggregate of what we have seen thus far reveals the reality of the next charge, 14 and the issue of peace.

Romans 3:17

**“AND THEY HAVE NOT KNOWN THE WAY OF PEACE.”** (NASB 2020)

Jesus gives peace. Without Jesus, we are indeed guilty of all that Paul has outlined here so far. The court has heard the charges, and we are still examining the result of the actions taken by those who have



rejected Jesus Christ. At times, I think the lack of peace in the life of the non-believer is the root cause. We have no peace with God, we have no peace with ourselves, and we have no peace with anyone else either because, we have no peace with God.

Jesus Christ has come to this planet to change all of that. He is the source of real peace.

John 14:27

**"Peace I leave you, My peace I give you; not as the world gives, do I give to you.** Do not let your hearts be troubled, nor fearful." (NASB 2020)

Jesus Christ promises to give us peace with God as well as the peace of God. First, the peace we have been offered, and for those of us who have trusted in Christ, now possess, is peace with God.

The breach in that peace took place there in the Garden of Eden when Adam and Eve rebelled against their created believing the lie of Satan, that they could be like God. Jesus had already worked out with the Father what would be required to reestablish the peace with God caused by that rebellion (Ephesians 1:3-10).

It would take nothing less than the sacrificial death on the cross of Jesus Christ, who would have to be perfect with no sin, to pay for our sin.

Romans 5:10

"For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life." (ESV)

Peace with God comes through the reconciliation with God provided to us by Jesus Christ. When we trust in His work on the cross for us and believe that He died for our sin so that we could be forgiven and also believe He rose from the dead to seal the deal, we are saved.

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

**"This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun! And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ. And God has given us this task of reconciling people to him. For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation. So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, "Come back to God!" For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ."** (NLT)

Once we trust Christ, we are no longer enemies of God, we are now His adopted kids. We have peace with God.

Romans 5:1

**"Therefore, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us."** (NLT)

Then there is the peace of God. This is the unworldly peace we walk through life with because we know who we belong to. We have placed everything onto Him and Jesus tells us more.

John 14:27

"Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." (NKJV)



This is a peace that can only be experienced by those who have placed their faith and trust in Jesus Christ and have stepped back making Him Lord of their life, letting Him call the shots.

Philippians 4:4–7

“Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice! Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand. **Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.**” (NKJV)

The peace of God is only obtainable by those who have made peace with God. And peace with God is only obtainable through Jesus Christ. We all need Jesus.

Charge 15 is one that we see all of the time. All of the previous actions have a source found in this charge.

Romans 3:18

**“THERE IS NO FEAR OF GOD BEFORE THEIR EYES.”** (NASB 2020)

All the sin of mankind goes back to this one thing, man lives as if God does not exist. When God was rejected by our ancestors in the Garden of Eden, they replaced Him with self. We all are born wallowing at that same pig trough of self-worship.

How do we confront this self-centeredness with our kids? We must teach them that no, not everything is yours. I still remember, as a really young child, being told I had to share with my sister. What do you mean share, mine.

Improper love of self is the root principle of the life that is lived without God. It is sad to say, but the most selfish persons are the very people who are usually ready to criticize selfishness in other people. Selfishness is the leading cause of people living without Christ.

Selfishness expresses itself in many ways. In selfishness, you will find self-indulgence, self-consideration, self-consciousness and self-centeredness. All of these are expressions of improper love for self. (Brooks 2007)

When we come to Christ, the Holy Spirit changes all of that and it begins with us being made new creatures in Him.

2 Corinthians 5:14–17

“For the love of Christ controls us, since we have concluded this, that Christ died for all; therefore all have died. And **he died for all so that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised.** So then from now on we acknowledge no one from an outward human point of view. Even though we have known Christ from such a human point of view, now we do not know him in that way any longer. So then, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; what is old has passed away—look, what is new has come!” (NET 2nd ed.)

As followers of Jesus, do we need to be reminded of this?

Unfortunately, yes. We are all still being sanctified, becoming more like Jesus and some are still working with the Spirit to get it. I love how the writer of Hebrews put it as a reminder for us.



Hebrews 13:15–16

“Through Him then, let’s continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips praising His name. And do not neglect doing good and sharing, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.” (NASB 2020)

Do I still check the mirror each morning to see if I am presentable? Absolutely. No one wants to see the living dead first thing in the morning.

I do find it amazing though at how the total lack of the fear of God shows up in our culture. We are seeing patterns repeat once again. As God is removed as one to worship and becomes the old man upstairs, He becomes humanized and no longer feared. Erwin Lutzer picks up from there.

“Along with the humanization of God came the deification of man. In Weimar, Goethe had eloquently argued that man must replace God as the center of art, philosophy, and history. As a child of the Enlightenment, he believed that religion had to be rethought and made to glorify man rather than God. He could never have dreamed, however, that in exalting man he was opening the door to unrestrained evil. It is not a historical accident that Buchenwald, one of the Nazi concentration camps, was only six miles from Weimar, the seat of the Enlightenment. Hitler had, I am told, perverted delight in setting up a death camp near the city that prided itself in tolerance and the glory of man. If, as Frankl said, the ovens of Auschwitz were prepared in the lecture halls of Europe, we can also say that those ovens were fueled by liberal scholarship that glorified man and declared God to be irrelevant.” (Lutzer 2018, 298)

The indictment from Paul is simple, man lives as if God does not exist.

This brings us to the final charge, number 16. Religion will not save you, the law will not save you. The law will only show that you are indeed guilty as charged.

Romans 3:19–20

**“Now we know that whatever the Law says, it speaks to those who are under the Law, so that every mouth may be closed and all the world may become accountable to God; because by the works of the Law none of mankind will be justified in His sight; for through the Law comes knowledge of sin.”** (NASB 2020)

I appreciate what Dr. McGee says. It is as if mankind in desperation grabbed for the Law as the proverbial straw when drowning. The Law won’t lift him up. Actually, it does the opposite. To hold onto the Law is like a man jumping out of an airplane, and instead of taking a parachute, he takes a sack of cement with him. Well, believe me, the Law will pull you down. It condemns man. It’s a ministration of death. (McGee 1997, 664-665)

All the law will do is say guilty as charged. Religion, chasing after God on your terms provides the same, guilty as charged. The answer is in the next few verses.

Romans 3:21–26

“But now apart from the Law the righteousness of God has been revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, but it is the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; **for there is no distinction, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus**, whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. This was to demonstrate His righteousness, because in God’s merciful restraint He let the sins previously committed go unpunished; for the demonstration, that is, of His righteousness at the present time, so that He would be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.” (NASB 2020)



Romans 10:9–13

“If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved. As the Scriptures tell us, “Anyone who trusts in him will never be disgraced.” Jew and Gentile are the same in this respect. They have the same Lord, who gives generously to all who call on him. For “Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved.”” (NLT)

### ABC's of Salvation

- A. Acknowledge that you are a sinner, tell Him that.
- B. Believe that Jesus died on the cross for our sin and that He rose from the dead.
- C. Confess that Jesus is Lord. Tell someone about what you have done.

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