



The Problem: Sin is Universal

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BIG IDEA: Everyone is **GUILTY** before God; no one escapes the need for **GRACE**

Understanding the Diagnosis

1. We **REJECT** God and His truth *Romans 1:18-32*
 - God's wrath is His righteous **RESPONSE** to sin
Psalm 45:6-7a; Hebrews 1:9; Jeremiah 7:20; John 3:16, 36; Ephesians 5:6; Colossians 3:5-6
 - Humanity **SUPPRESSES** what God has **REVEALED**
Psalm 19:1-4; Acts 14:15-17, 17:24-28
 - Sin **EXCHANGES** God for something else
Genesis 3:1-6; Jeremiah 2:11-13; John 3:19-20
 - Sometimes God's wrath means letting us HAVE what we insist on
2. Being **MORAL** doesn't make me innocent *Romans 2:1-16*
 - Looking **down** at someone never moves me **up** before God *Matthew 7:1-5*
 - Being **better** than someone else doesn't make me **right** with God *Luke 18:9-14*
3. Being **RELIGIOUS** doesn't make me righteous *Romans 2:17-3:8; Matthew 7:21-23; John 5:39-40*
 - **Knowing** God's truth is not the same as being **transformed** by God's truth
 - Religion can change what I look like on the **outside** without making me right with God on the **inside**
4. **NO ONE** is righteous *Romans 3:9-20*
 - Humanity is under sin (v. 9) *Psalm 14:1-3; Ecclesiastes 7:20; Galatians 3:24*
 - Sin has affected the whole person...
 - Our **CHARACTER** (v.v 10-12) *Psalm 14:1-3, 53, 1-3*
 - Our **CONVERSATION** (v.v 13-14) *Psalm 5:9, 140:3, 10:7; Matthew 12:34; James 3:6-10*
 - Our **CONDUCT** (v.v. 15-17) *Isaiah 59:7-8*
 - At the **root**, we do not **FEAR GOD** (v. 18) *Psalm 36:1; Romans 1:21*
 - The verdict: **GUILTY** with no chance of an appeal (v.v. 19-20)



Online Notes

KEEP READING →

WHY does it matter/WHAT does it mean for me?

1. I need to understand the **SERIOUSNESS** of my sin
 - **TRUTH:** Sin isn't just something I **do**; it's a problem that runs much **deeper**.
 - **HARD TRUTH:** I'll never understand how amazing **grace** is until I understand how desperately I **need** it.
2. I need to stop trying to **EXPLAIN AWAY** my guilt
 - **TRUTH:** I can only receive **forgiveness** for the sin I'm willing to **acknowledge**.
 - **HARD TRUTH:** I can't **repent** of what I keep **trying to justify**.
3. I need to see the lost as needing the **GOSPEL**, not just better behavior
 - **TRUTH:** People don't ultimately need me to make them more **moral**; they need me to point them to **Jesus**.
 - **HARD TRUTH:** If I am more **bothered** by someone's sin than **burdened** that they don't know Jesus, I may have **forgotten** how much I needed grace too.

Memory Verse:

As it is written: "None is righteous, no, not one."

Romans 3:10 ESV

Reflection Questions:

- What stood out to you most from this week's message on Romans 1:18-3:20?
- Why do you think Paul spends so much time explaining the "bad news" before explaining the good news of salvation?
- How is God's wrath different from human anger?
- Romans 1 repeatedly describes humanity "exchanging" God or God's truth for something else. What does that teach us about the nature of our sin?
- What do you think is happening when Romans 1 says 3 times that "God gave them up"?
- Why is comparison such an ineffective way of determining whether we are righteous?
- What is the difference between being religious and being righteous?
- Paul describes sin affecting our character, conversation, conduct, and relationship with God. Where do you most clearly see the effects of sin in your own life?
- Romans 3:19 says that eventually "every mouth will be stopped." What defenses or excuses are you most tempted to offer God?
- Review Hard Truth #1. How does a deeper understanding of your sin change the way you view Jesus, the Cross, forgiveness, worship and grace?

My next step today is to...

- Memorize Romans 3:10
- Repent and accept Jesus as my Savior and submit to His Lordship for the first time!
- Go public as a follower of Jesus and get baptized
- Intentionally pray for, pursue and look for an opportunity to share the Gospel with _____ this week
- Read Romans chapters 2 & 3 this week
- Watch or listen to **The 3C Podcast** to go deeper this week
- _____