

Sin and Condemnation: The World's need to get right with God

(74)

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[Romans 1:18-3:20](#)

(Continuation from 08/13/17)

F. God's Case Against All Men, [Romans 3:9-20](#)

[Romans 3:9-12 \(NASB\)](#)

⁹ “What then? Are we better than they? Not at all; for we have already charged that both Jews and Greeks are all under sin;

¹⁰ as it is written, “THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE;

¹¹ THERE IS NONE WHO UNDERSTANDS, THERE IS NONE WHO SEEKS FOR GOD;

¹² ALL HAVE TURNED ASIDE, TOGETHER THEY HAVE BECOME USELESS; THERE IS NONE WHO DOES GOOD, THERE IS NOT EVEN ONE.”

The apostle Paul was well aware of man's disposition to deny his sin. Therefore, from creation, from history; from reason and logic, and from conscience, Paul has already presented powerful testimony of man's sinfulness. Now he presents the ultimate testimony, the testimony of Scripture. Beginning with [verse 10](#) and continuing through [verse 18](#), Paul introduces before the court, as it were, the testimony of God's own Word as revealed in the Old Testament.

[Verses 9-20](#) summarize God's divine and perfect view of man and they continue in a trial motif: the arraignment ([v. 9](#)), the indictment ([vv. 10-17](#)), the motive ([v. 18](#)), and the verdict ([vv. 19-20](#)).

1. [The charge: all men are under sin \(v.9\).](#)
2. [The case of a sinful nature \(v.10-12\).](#)
3. [The case of a sinful tongue \(v.13-14\).](#)
4. [The case of sinful acts \(v.15-18\).](#)
5. [The case of the law \(v.19-20\).](#)

2. [\(Romans 3:10-12\) Man, Nature— Sin: there is the case of a sinful nature.](#)

[Romans 3:10-12 \(NASB\)](#)

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08-20-17

Series: The Book of Romans

1. A sinful nature is unrighteous ([Romans 3:10](#); cp. [Psalm 14:1](#)): “There is none righteous, no, not one.” Not a single person is righteous, that is, perfect and sinless—not by nature nor by act.

[Romans 3:10 \(NASB\)](#)

¹⁰“As it is written, “THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE.”

[Psalm 14:1 \(NASB\)](#)

¹“The fool has said in his heart, “There is no God.” They are corrupt, they have committed abominable deeds; There is no one who does good.”

No man has ever lived a perfect life, not perfect...

- 1) in every thought
- 2) in every word
- 3) in every act

“There is none righteous [perfect, sinless] no, not one.” ([Romans 3:10 \(NASB\)](#)) By nature, man is sinful.

[John 7:7 \(NASB\)](#)

⁷“The world cannot hate you, but it hates Me because I testify of it, that its deeds are evil.”

[Galatians 5:19-21 \(NASB\)](#)

¹⁹“Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality,

²⁰idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions,

²¹envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.”

2. A sinful nature is ignorant ([Romans 3:11](#); cp. [Psalm 14:2](#)): “There is none that understands [*suniōn*].” Not a single person grasps, comprehends, or perceives.

[Romans 3:11 \(NASB\)](#)

¹¹“THERE IS NONE WHO **UNDERSTANDS**, THERE IS NONE WHO SEEKS FOR GOD.”

[Psalm 14:2 \(NASB\)](#)

²“The LORD has looked down from heaven upon the sons of men To see if there are any who **understand**, Who seek after God.”

The word literally means *to put things together*. It means to look at things and to intelligently discern and comprehend the truth. No man looks at the world and thinks and puts the truth of things together—not perfectly—not about...

1. God
2. man
3. the world
4. the origin of all
5. the purpose of all
6. the destiny of all

No one looks at the world and intelligently discerns the truth of things, not in grasping the truth...

- 1) of where they have come from
- 2) of why they are here
- 3) of where they are going

“There is none that understands.”

[Acts 28:27 \(NASB\)](#)

²⁷“FOR THE HEART OF THIS PEOPLE HAS BECOME DULL, AND WITH THEIR EARS THEY SCARCELY HEAR, AND THEY HAVE CLOSED THEIR EYES; OTHERWISE THEY MIGHT SEE WITH THEIR EYES, AND HEAR WITH THEIR EARS, AND UNDERSTAND WITH THEIR HEART AND RETURN, AND I WOULD HEAL THEM.”

[2 Timothy 3:7 \(NASB\)](#)

⁷“Always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.”

[Psalm 82:5 \(NASB\)](#)

⁵“They do not know nor do they understand; They walk about in darkness; All the foundations of the earth are shaken.”

[Micah 4:12 \(NASB\)](#)

¹²“But they do not know the thoughts of the LORD, And they do not understand His purpose; For He has gathered them like sheaves to the threshing floor.”

3. A sinful nature is indifferent and selfish ([Romans 3:11](#); cp. [Psalm 14:2](#)): “There is none that seeks after God.”

[Romans 3:11 \(NASB\)](#)

¹¹“THERE IS NONE WHO UNDERSTANDS, THERE IS NONE **WHO SEEKS FOR GOD.**”

[Psalm 14:2 \(NASB\)](#)

²“The LORD has looked down from heaven upon the sons of men To see if there are any who understand, **Who seek after God.**”

The word “seek after” (*ekzēteō*) means “to seek out and search for.” The idea is that of a diligent, careful, determined seeking and searching. No one searches and seeks after God, not after the only living and true God, not with so careful and determined a spirit. Why? Because men are indifferent and selfish.

Men want gods that allow them to do their own thing.

- ⇒ Some want gods that allow them to glory in self by demonstrating their extreme self-discipline and sacrifice.
- ⇒ Others want gods who demand less and who allow them to live as they wish, in the pleasures and greed and possessions of this world.

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Men do not want a God who is true and living. If He is true and living, it means He is Supreme, the only One who is to be glorified and honored and obeyed. Therefore, in dealing with the only living and true God, men are indifferent and selfish. **“There is none that seeketh after God.”** By nature, men are sinful, indifferent, and selfish.

Ephesians 2:12 (NASB)

¹²“Remember that you were at that time **separate from Christ**, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, **having no hope and without God in the world.**”

1 Timothy 1:9-10 (NASB)

⁹“Realizing the fact that law is not made for a righteous person, but for those who are lawless and rebellious, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers ¹⁰and immoral men and homosexuals and kidnappers and liars and perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound teaching.”

1 John 2:22 (NASB)

²²“Who is the liar but the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, the one who denies the Father and the Son.”

Psalms 10:4 (NASB)

⁴“The wicked, in the haughtiness of his countenance, does not seek *Him*. All his thoughts are, “There is no God.”

Psalms 14:1 (NASB)

¹“The fool has said in his heart, “There is no God.” They are corrupt, they have committed abominable deeds; There is no one who does good.”

Malachi 3:14 (NASB)

¹⁴“You have said, ‘It is vain to serve God; and what profit is it that we have kept His charge, and that we have walked in mourning before the LORD of hosts?’”

4. A sinful nature is crooked (**Romans 3:12**; cp. **Psalms 14:3**): “They are all gone out of the way” (*pantes exeklinan*).

Romans 3:12 (NASB)

¹²“**ALL HAVE TURNED ASIDE**, TOGETHER THEY HAVE BECOME USELESS; THERE IS NONE WHO DOES GOOD, THERE IS NOT EVEN ONE.”

Psalms 14:3 (NASB)

³“**They have all turned aside**, together they have become corrupt; There is no one who does good, not even one.”

The Greek means that men lean out, turn away, and turn aside...

- 1) from God.
- 2) from the way that leads to God.
- 3) to another way.

Men are crooked; they are not straight with God. They do not follow God nor pursue the right way to God. They take another path, another road, another way.

1 Timothy 1:5-6 (NASB)

⁵“But the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.

⁶For some men, straying from these things, have turned aside to fruitless discussion.”

1 Peter 2:25 (NASB)

²⁵“For you were continually straying like sheep, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls.”

2 Peter 2:15 (NASB)

¹⁵“Forsaking the right way, they have gone astray, having followed the way of Balaam, the *son* of Beor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness.”

Jude 1:13 (NASB)

¹³“[The ungodly are] wild waves of the sea, casting up their own shame like foam; wandering stars, for whom the black darkness has been reserved forever.”

Proverbs 21:16 (NASB)

¹⁶“A man who wanders from the way of understanding Will rest in the assembly of the dead.”

Proverbs 27:8 (NASB)

⁸“Like a bird that wanders from her nest, So is a man who wanders from his home.”

Isaiah 53:6 (NASB)

⁶“All of us like sheep have gone astray, Each of us has turned to his own way; But the LORD has caused the iniquity of us all To fall on Him.”

5. A sinful nature is useless (**Romans 3:12**; cp. **Psalm 14:3**): “They are together become unprofitable” (*achreioō*).

Romans 3:12 (NASB)

¹²“ALL HAVE TURNED ASIDE, **TOGETHER THEY HAVE BECOME USELESS**; THERE IS NONE WHO DOES GOOD, THERE IS NOT EVEN ONE.”

Psalm 14:3 (NASB)

³“They have all turned aside, **together they have become corrupt**; There is no one who does good, not even one.”

The word means “to become worthless, useless, sour, bad. (cp. sour milk.)” All men without Christ are worthless, useless, sour, bad.

Matthew 5:13 (NASB)

¹³“You are the salt of the earth; **but if the salt has become tasteless**, how can it be made salty *again*? It is **no longer good for anything**, except to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men.”

Matthew 25:30 (NASB)

³⁰“**Throw out the worthless** slave into the outer darkness; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

Luke 9:25 (NASB)

²⁵“For what is a man profited if he gains the whole world, and loses or forfeits himself?”

Luke 14:34-35 (NASB)

³⁴“Therefore, salt is good; **but if even salt has become tasteless**, with what will it be seasoned?

³⁵It is useless either for the soil or for the manure pile; it is thrown out. He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

6. A sinful nature is evil (**Romans 3:12**; cp. **Psalm 14:3**): “There is none that doeth good, no, not one.”

Romans 3:12 (NASB)

¹²“ALL HAVE TURNED ASIDE, TOGETHER THEY HAVE BECOME USELESS; **THERE IS NONE WHO DOES GOOD**, THERE IS NOT EVEN ONE.”

Psalm 14:3 (NASB)

³“They have all turned aside, together they have become corrupt; **There is no one who does good**, not even one.”

The word “good” (*chrēstotēs*) means “moral goodness, kindness, graciousness, gentleness, justice.”

All men fail in being good toward God and their neighbor, in being...

- 1) kind
- 2) gracious
- 3) gentle
- 4) just

Men come short—too often, too much. “There is none that doeth good [not always, not perfectly], no, not one.”

Matthew 23:27 (NASB)

²⁷“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which on the outside appear beautiful, but inside they are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness.”

Mark 7:21-23 (NASB)

²¹“For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed the evil thoughts, fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries,

²²deeds of coveting *and* wickedness, *as well as* deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride *and* foolishness.

²³“All these evil things proceed from within and defile the man.”