

R O M A N S

GOD'S GOOD NEWS FOR ALL PEOPLE

#8 Paul's Closing Argument

Romans 3:9-20 (ESV)

Romans 3:9-20 *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,¹⁰ as it is written: "None is righteous, no, not one;¹¹ no one understands; no one seeks for God.¹² All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one."¹³ "Their throat is an open grave; they use their tongues to deceive." "The venom of asps is under their lips."¹⁴ "Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness."¹⁵ "Their feet are swift to shed blood;¹⁶ in their paths are ruin and misery,¹⁷ and the way of peace they have not known."¹⁸ "There is no fear of God before their eyes."¹⁹ 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.²⁰ For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.*

Introduction:

- I. **Paul's Conclusion** (Romans 3:9)
- II. **Paul Details Man's Condition** (Romans 3:10-18)
"There is no fear of God before their eyes."
 - A. His Condition (Romans 10-12a, Psalms 14:1-3, 53:1-3)
 - B. Its Expression (Romans 3:12b-18)
As evaluated from God's perspective.
 1. No "good" **WORKS** (Romans 3:12b)
 2. No "good" **WORDS** (Romans 3:13-14, Matthew 12:34-37, Psalms 5:9, 140:3, 10:7)
 3. No "good" **RELATIONSHIPS** (Romans 3:15-17, Isaiah 59:7-8)
 4. No "good" **WORSHIP** (Romans 3:18; Psalms 36:1)
Fear of the Lord = the O.T. equivalent of saving faith

III. **Man's Accountability** (Romans 3:19-20)

The Total Depravity of Fallen Man: "Total depravity means that our rebellion against God is total, everything we do in this rebellion is sin, our inability to submit to God or reform ourselves is total, and we are therefore totally deserving of eternal punishment." (*John Piper*)

- A. What are the Implications of Man's Depravity?
 1. The Essentialness of **ELECTION** (Ephesians 1:4, John 6:44-45)
- B. The Essentialness of **REPENTANCE** for Salvation (Mark 1:15, Acts 20:21)
- C. A Starting Point for...
 1. A Proper **SELF IMAGE**
 2. **HUMILITY**
—An accurate view of God, self, and others.

—Three acknowledgments about self:
 - a. Left to myself, I will do nothing but sin by thought, word, and deed.
 - b. Only by God's grace do I ever obey.
 - c. Every asset I possess, is a gift of God.
- D. The Development of our own Personal Plan of **SALVATION** (Isaiah 53:6)
- E. A Wake-Up Call for **PARENTS** (Proverbs 22:15)
- F. A Believer's Remaining **DEPRAVITY** (Romans 7:18)

Conclusion: Ephesians 2:1-10