

## The Truth about Sin # 9

Romans 3: 9-20

As we consider ourselves, generally we tend to think of ourselves in a positive light. We believe that we are good people, living as good as anyone else, and better than some. We easily spot the sin and failures of others, while overlooking or ignoring the sin in our own lives.

I know what we mean when we speak of good people, but the reality is: none of us are good. We are all born in sin, condemned before God. Even after salvation we continue to battle the lusts of the flesh, and are prone to give in to its desires and temptations. We have absolutely nothing to boast in ourselves. I will admit that I am nothing more than a sinner saved by grace. The greatest problem I have in this life stares at me in the mirror each day.

Paul dealt with those who assumed all was well between them and God, not acknowledging the sin in their lives that needed to be addressed. The same is true in our day and society as well. This will be a difficult passage to consider, but it is very needful and beneficial for all. I want to consider the [certainties](#) Paul describes regarding sin in our lives as we think on: [The Truth about Sin](#).

**I. The Indictment against Sin** (9-10) – Here Paul brings a bold indictment against sin which reveals its true nature and effect. We discover:

**A. Sin is Universal** (9) – [What then? are we better than they? No, in no wise: for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin;](#) Paul dealt with those who viewed the sin of others, even entire nationalities, as horrid, but failed to see their own sin. They readily condemned sin in others, but failed to recognize it in their own lives. Paul declares that all are under sin, regardless of race or social status. None have any reason to boast.

- We may not like to admit it, but we too fall under this category. We may think western culture is more refined and civilized than other parts of the world, but we are born in sin and stand in great need of redemption.

**B. Sin is Undeniable** (10) – [As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:](#) In case Paul hadn't made his point clear enough, he affirms that none are righteous, not even one! None have anything to boast in or depend upon when it comes to personal righteousness. We may try and deny sin, or simply ignore it, but it is undeniable that we are all born in sin and stand in need of cleansing from our sin.

- Many try to categorize sin or minimize it, but it remains. Some can't see their own need because they only see the sin of others. They are quick to condemn, but slow to deal with their own needs. Regardless of our acknowledgment or attitude regarding sin, it is undeniable. Morality and human goodness are not the standard by which men will be judged; the righteousness of God is the standard, and it is only obtained through salvation in Christ.

**II. The Infection of Sin (11-18)** – In the following verses, Paul points out various ways in which sin infects and taints our lives. We see that:

**A. Sin Affects our Wisdom (11)** – *There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.* Apart from God in sin it is impossible to perceive or comprehend our sin, our need, or the righteousness of God and His holy standard. Many view their perceived “goodness” or “morality” to be enough to merit heaven. We do not seek the Lord or His ways while in sin. We may think that all is well, but in reality our minds and hearts are blinded to the truth. There is no desire to turn from the pleasures of the flesh and seek God.

**B. Sin Affects our Witness (12)** – *They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.* Those who belong to Christ bear witness of Him through a changed life. They no longer seek the lusts of the flesh or live as they used to, bound by sin. The man in sin is not that way. He has completely ignored the Lord and is now walking after the flesh without restraint. His senses are dulled and he sees no value in the ways of God. He has been drawn toward a path that leads to death and destruction.

- Some may feel as if all is well. Society tells them to enjoy life, whatever the means. They look around and view their works as beneficial to the greater good, but they have not considered the righteous demands of God. One's works may be accepted as “good” by the world's standard, but apart from God we all remain in sin, separated from Him.

**C. Sin Affects our Words (13-14)** – *Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips: <sup>[14]</sup> Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness:* We know our Lord declared that our words would eventually reveal our hearts. What is within the heart will eventually make its way to the mouth for all to hear. The sinner is no different. You don't have to be around someone long to discover where they stand.

- Paul declares the sinner's throat is literally an open grave, revealing the death within. Their tongues spew deceit and deception. This is one of the most dangerous aspects of the sinners'

speech. He is convinced his life is acceptable to God, or rather he doesn't care at all, and others receive his words as truth. They assume his words confirm their state as well. This false doctrine and denial of truth is a deadly poison that infects others who hear.

- Their mouths are filled with cursing and bitterness. This is a telling sign that one's heart is not right with God. I have never known someone who was right with the Lord to have a foul mouth. Often these are angry and bitter toward others and seek to slander and tear down. As believers we must guard our tongues while seeking to portray a positive witness for Christ.

**D. Sin Affects our Walk (15-17)** – *Their feet are swift to shed blood:*<sup>[16]</sup> *Destruction and misery are in their ways:*<sup>[17]</sup> *And the way of peace have they not known:* The walk of sinful men follows the desires they possess. Sadly these are all too common in American society and around the world.

- *Their feet are swift to shed blood.* This is a reality we understand all too well. We hear of it daily within our surrounding area. Murder and violence are prevalent today. It quickly became evident as humanity was expelled from the Garden of Eden with Cain killing his brother, Abel. We live in a society that no longer respects human life. Millions of babies have been murdered within the sanctity of their mother's womb. Genocide and holocaust have been common throughout history. These are all the result of man's wickedness and sinful desires.
- *Destruction and misery are in their ways.* People have lost compassion and concern for their fellow man. They are determined to have their way and possess their desires, regardless of the cost or devastation to others. Greed and pride have caused great harm to many.
- *And the way of peace have they not known.* We now live in a world that is void of peace. History has been plagued with war and conflict, but even the peace and serenity of America has become tainted by sin. Violence, rioting, and crime now are considered normal in our modern society. Sin doesn't desire nor pursue peace.

**E. Sin Affects our Worship (18)** – *There is no fear of God before their eyes.* The sinful have no desire for the ways of God and have no respect or fear of Him. They refuse to submit to Christ in salvation and choose to remain on their path of destruction. As we've already discussed, they worship the creature more than the Creator. God is viewed as only a mystic entity that exists in the minds of the weak and vulnerable. They curse God and deny His very existence.

- Without a genuine fear of God, these remain in their sin and condemned before God. They see no need to humble themselves and respond to His gracious offer of salvation.

**III. The Illumination of Sin (19-20)** – Finally Paul reveals how God reveals sin in our lives and the way in which He deals with sin. Notice:

**A. Sin's Conviction (19)** – Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. Many may choose to reject it or avoid reading the Word of God, but His law reveals the sinful condition of all men. As we look into the Word we discover our guilt before God because of sin.

- If we will but heed His Word, we will realize our need of Christ and seek Him in salvation. God's Word brings conviction to hearts of lost sinners.

**B. Sin's Condemnation (20)** – Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin. Paul understood the law was never given as a means of salvation. It was given of the Lord to reveal our sin and point us to Christ. It is impossible for man to live according to the demands of the law. There is absolutely no way one can be justified in the eyes of God through an attempt of keeping the law. If we offend in one area of the law, we are guilty of all. Who among us has not told a lie or coveted something at some point in life?

- The law brings to light the knowledge of sin. As we read the law of God, we begin to understand our sinful condition and need of salvation. We understand that God will judge sin and will never condone or pardon sin. We are condemned of God because of the sin in our lives.
- Without knowing the rest of the story, this would be a hopeless statement. Paul will soon address the way of salvation from sin. Thankfully God didn't just condemn our sin without providing a means of reconciliation. We cannot earn it by our good works or through keeping the law. God has to judge all sin. There is hope for all however. God judged sin in the body of His Son. As Christ bore our sin on the cross, God judged our sin in Christ. There is atonement for sin through salvation in Christ. He alone is our way of justification and escape from condemnation!

**Conclusion:** I trust we have been enlightened to the destructive and universal nature of sin. We are all born in sin and stand in need of salvation. Sin infects our lives and creates condemnation before God. By no means do I live a perfect life without sin, but I rejoice to know my sin has been atoned. I have trusted Christ in salvation and my sin has been cleansed through the sacrifice He made on the cross.

Do you know Christ as your Savior? If not, you remain in your sin and stand condemned before God. Come to Him in salvation and receive forgiveness and reconciliation to God. Christian are there areas in your life that need addressed? Is there unconfessed sin? Bring it to Jesus!