SERMON NOTES

Date: January 31, 2016

Title: Under the Power of Sin

Text: Romans 3:9-20

Big Idea: The failure to honor God is a universal problem. Both Jews and Gentiles together are under the power of sin and have failed to keep God's law; consequently, no one is righteous.

I. Introduction

- The world teaches that humanity is fundamentally good and all we need is the right environment to help us reach our full potential.
- The Bible teaches that our hearts are corrupt, our minds are depraved, and our desires are enslaved to the passions of sin. We need a Savior.
- II. Paul summarizes his entire argument by explaining from the Old Testament that God is just to *arraign, indict,* and *condemn* the entire human race.
 - A. Our Arraignment (v. 9)
 - B. Our Indictment (vs. 10-18)
 - 1. Unrighteousness (vs. 10-11)
 - 2. Waywardness (v. 12)
 - 3. Deceitfulness (vs. 13-14)
 - 4. Destructiveness (vs. 15-17)
 - 5. Haughtiness (v. 18)

Sin is pervasive. It has infected our entire being. Theologians call this *radical depravity* or *total inability*.

C. Our Condemnation (vs. 19-20)

III. Conclusion

Though our condition under the power of sin is radical and there's nothing we can do about it, God can! There is a divine solution to our problem. Christ has died for us. He's paid our debt and taken our punishment. We are loved and faith we can be forgiven.

MAKE IT REAL

1.	How has the sermon impacted you this week?
2.	Please define <i>radical depravity</i> or <i>total inability</i> in your own words.
3.	Why do some people object to the Bible's teaching about our radical depravity or total inability under sin? How do you respond?
4.	Our guilt under the power of sin is the bad news. What is the good news that we as believers must turn to when we remember the heartbreak of radical depravity?
5.	Read the following passages and describe how each one provides encouragement for the guilty sinner. • Isaiah 61:10 • Romans 3:21-26
	• Colossians 1:13-14
	• Titus 3:4-7
6.	Read Isaiah 57:15. How does God want you to respond to him in light of your guilt and what does he promise to give you as a result?