

THE BOOK OF
ROMANS
Dead to Sin. Alive in Christ.

Guilty

ROMANS 3:9-20



Summary of Chapters 1–3

- **All people are:**
 - Guilty
 - Under sin's control
 - Incapable of rescuing themselves

What's Wrong With the World?

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“Dear Sir,
I am.”

Yours faithfully,
G.K. Chesterton

Romans 3:1-2

“Then what advantage has the Jew? ... Much in every way. To begin with, the Jews were entrusted with the oracles of God.”

(ESV)

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Universal Problem

EVERYONE IS IN THE SAME BOAT: UNDER SIN
(and the boat is sinking)



Romans 3:9

“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.”

(ESV)

All Are Guilty

“The wrath of God is revealed against all ungodliness and unrighteousness ... so they are without excuse”

(1:18-23)

- The Rebel

(1:21-32)

- The Morally Righteous

(2:1-16)

- The Religious (Jew)

(2:17-29); (3:1-8)

“None is righteous, no not one ... all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”

(3:10, 23)

Romans 3:9

*“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**.”* (ESV)

“Under Sin” (*hupo hamartia*). We are not simply sinners, but we are “under sin’s control.” Sin is a ruthless taskmaster and we are sin’s helpless slaves.

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Universal Corruption

So, How BAD Is It?



Romans 3:8-18 (14 sweeping statements)

“As it is written: ¹‘None is righteous, no, not one; ²no one understands; ³no one seeks for God. ⁴All have turned aside; ⁵together they have become worthless; ⁶no one does good, not even one.’ ⁷‘Their throat is an open grave; ⁸they use their tongues to deceive.’ ⁹‘The venom of asps is under their lips.’ ¹⁰‘Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness.’ ¹¹‘Their feet are swift to shed blood; ¹²in their paths are ruin and misery, and ¹³the way of peace they have not known.’ ¹⁴‘There is no fear of God before their eyes.’” (ESV)

Old Testament Texts Quoted

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- Psalm 14:1-3
- Psalm 5:9
- Psalm 140:3
- Psalm 10:7
- Psalm 36:1
- Isaiah 59:7-8

Note his “no’s”

“**None** is righteous, **no, not one; no one** understands; **no one** seeks for God. **All** have turned aside; together they have become worthless; **no one** does good, **not even one.**”

(Rom 3:10-12, ESV)

“worthless” (*achreioō*)

- Used only 1x in New Testament
- Carries the idea of damaged, corrupted, something permanently bad and therefore useless
- Used outside the New Testament of rotten fruit

Corrupt Speech

- Throats are open graves
- Tongues are used to deceive
- There is venom on their lips
- Their mouths are full of curses

Proverbs 6:16-19

*“There are six things that the Lord hates, seven that are an abomination to him: haughty eyes, **a lying tongue**, and hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that make haste to run to evil, **a false witness who breathes out lies**, and one who **sows discord** among brothers.” (ESV)*

Matthew 12:34

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“Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.”

(ESV)

Corrupt Conduct

- Feet swift to shed blood
- Following paths that lead to ruin and misery
- A peace they do not know
- No fear of God

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Universal Condemnation

THE VERDICT: GUILTY



Romans 3:19-20

“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. For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.” (ESV)

Galatians

- “We know that a person is *not justified by works of the law* but through faith in Jesus Christ ... in order to be justified by faith in Christ and *not by works of the law*, because *by works of the law no one will be justified.*” (2:16, 3x)
- “Let me ask you only this: *Did you receive the Spirit by works of the law* or by hearing with faith?” (3:2)
- “*Does he who supplies the Spirit to you ... do so by works of the law*, or by hearing with faith?” (3:5)
- “*For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse*” (3:10)

Dougl as Moo

“Having told us what the law cannot do—bring one into relationship with God—Paul concludes by telling us what the law does accomplish: through it we become conscious of sin.”

J.B. Phillips

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“It is the straight-edge of the Law that shows us how crooked we are.”

William Cowper

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There is a fountain filled with blood,
drawn from Immanuel's veins;
and sinners, plunged beneath that flood,
lose all their guilty stains.

Julia Johnston

Marvelous grace of our loving Lord,
grace that exceeds our sin and our guilt!
Yonder on Calvary's mount out-poured
there where the blood of the Lamb was spilt.

Grace, grace, God's grace,
grace that will pardon and cleanse within;
Grace, grace, God's grace,
grace that is greater than all our sin.

Acts 4:12

“And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.” (ESV)

Romans 5:8; 8:1

“But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us ... There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”

(ESV)

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Guilty

You cannot save yourself. But what you cannot do on your own, God has provided for you through Jesus Christ.



Next Steps

- I am thankful for the grace of God gifted to us through Jesus Christ.
- I recognize that I am guilty, under sin's control, and incapable of rescuing myself from the penalty of sin.
- I will make it a priority to attend Easter weekend services, and invite others to come with me.