

## All Men Under Sin

Romans 3:9-20 <sup>9</sup> 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, <sup>10</sup> as it is written:

*"None is righteous, no, not one; <sup>11</sup> no one understands; no one seeks for God. <sup>12</sup> All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one." <sup>13</sup> "Their throat is an open grave; they use their tongues to deceive." "The venom of asps is under their lips." <sup>14</sup> "Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness." <sup>15</sup> "Their feet are swift to shed blood; <sup>16</sup> in their paths are ruin and misery, <sup>17</sup> and the way of peace they have not known." <sup>18</sup> "There is no fear of God before their eyes."*

<sup>19</sup> 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. <sup>20</sup> For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

### ❖ Review:

- **Let's not spend much time on review...**
  - Only to say that Paul is trying to prove an argument.
  - And here He is coming to the conclusion of his argument...
- **The point Paul is trying to make is here in the text for today...**
  - So we will not spend much time reviewing this morning...
- **For Your Information**
  - If your trying to keep up...
  - Paul has been working to prove the point since Chapter 1 Verse 18
- **Paul's Proposition:**
  - **All Are Under Sin...**
    - All people are under sin....
  - Now... what he means by "under sin" is something we will dig into a little deeper
    - Later in this study...

### ❖ Today: Introduction

- **These are very useful verses...**
  - These verses teach us a lot...
- **This text is proclaiming to the world...** that every man, woman and child are all Under Sin...
  - Paul has thus far proved it...
- **Here today...** Paul will make it abundantly clear for all of us...
  - What is the depth and height and length and width of our sinful nature...
  - I use that terminology because... In Christ we get to experience what is the
    - Depth and height and length and width of His love for us...
- **The Scriptures are very clear here in Romans 3:9-20...**
  - All men are under Sin....

### ❖ The Big Picture

- **We Must look at these verses from a Bird's Eye View...**
- **Paul says in verse 9**
  - <sup>9</sup> 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
  - **So... do we all see together what Paul is trying to say?**
    - This is important because... as we dig into the following verses
    - You need to know why Paul is writing this...
  - **Paul will follow his main proposition: All Men are under Sin...**
    - With ? Old Testament Proof Texts...

◆ So Paul is going to use the scriptures of the Old Testament to prove the point...

➤ All men are under sin...

▪ **The first O.T. Proof comes from the Psalms 14:1-3 and 53:1-3**

◆ And they refer to the Gentiles as being under sin...

• *"None is righteous, no, not one; <sup>11</sup> no one understands; no one seeks for God. <sup>12</sup> All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one."*

▪ **The second comes from Psalm 5:9**

• *<sup>13</sup> "Their throat is an open grave; they use their tongues to deceive."*

▪ **The third comes from Psalm 140:3**

• *"The venom of asps is under their lips."*

▪ **The fourth comes from Psalm 10:7**

• *<sup>14</sup> "Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness."*

▪ **The Fifth comes from Isaiah 59:7-8**

• *<sup>15</sup> "Their feet are swift to shed blood; <sup>16</sup> in their paths are ruin and misery, <sup>17</sup> and the way of peace they have not known."*

▪ **The Sixth Quote comes from Psalm 36:1**

• *"There is no fear of God before their eyes."*

➤ **These six O.T. Quotes are God's way of pointing out to us... that all men are under sin...**

▪ Some of these were written about Gentiles...

▪ Some were written about Jewish People...

▪ Together they prove the point... All Men are under Sin...

➤ **Also... We see the intention of the writer in using these 6 O.T. quotes...**

▪ He begins with it... He says...

▪ **For we have already charged that all, both Jews and Greeks, are under sin**

➤ **Finally....** God uses Paul to tell us why... why He is writing all of this...

▪ Why He is going to such great lengths to show us that we are all under sin

• **so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God.**  
**<sup>20</sup> For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight**

▪ So that every mouth may be stopped

▪ The whole world held accountable to God

▪ No human will be justified in the sight of God by works of the law...

➤ **Do you see it?**

▪ **Proposition: All are under Sin...**

▪ **Proof: 6 O.T. texts**

▪ **Conclusion: Every Mouth Stopped**

➤ **Ok... If all we wanted was to see an overview... we could just stop now...**

▪ But there is so much here...

▪ We need to go deep today... let's see ourselves for who we are...

❖ **The Depth of us being under sin is remarkable...**

➤ It is not just enough to say that we are under sin...

▪ There is so much to our being under sin...

▪ And here God is going to lay that out for us in Romans 3

❖ **Liberating:**

➤ **Here me now...** These are things I have known for years...

▪ Yet... yesterday I felt liberated looking at these truths...

▪ It was good for me to see myself afresh for who I am...

• For who I am without God...

• Which is utterly and completely at opposition to God..

➤ **Our Nature is so diametrically (absolutely) opposed to God...**

- **We are like sides of a magnet...** When you put the wrong sides together
  - No matter how hard you try... they will always push away...
  - They will never want to connect
  - They cant... because they have a magnetic force that pushes against each other...
- **Unless...**
  - You reorient the magnet... which is indeed possible... although not that easy...
    - ◆ And I do not know much more about it than that...
    - ◆ Because different magnets need different solutions...
- **We are like magnets against God...**
  - We need to be turned around....
- **Which... all of this makes me wonder how God could ever like us...**
  - Much less pour out His love on us lavishly
- **Let's Pray Together that we see this today...**
  - That we see the

Let's Look at the Text... I won't share the full outline today... but you ought to be able to follow it easy...

### ❖ 1) All Men are Under Sin...

- **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,**
- **We have only made this point 50x so far today...**
  - But it is not enough just to say all men are under sin...
  - We must understand what it means to be under sin...
  - We can say it until we are 100 years old and still lack any real understanding...
- **What does God mean** by inspiring Paul to say: **All Men are Under Sin**
  - **Under Sin:** Is a **condition** of man demonstrated by rebellion and a broken relation with God
    - ◆ Notice... I said it is demonstrated by rebellion...
    - ◆ Our state is demonstrated in rebellion
  - It is a condition...
    - ◆ It is not sinning... it is... we are sinners...
- **Being under sin...** is being enslaved to sin....
  - All men are under the enslavement of sin....
  - Fix this firmly on your minds this morning...
  - All men have the condition of being Under Sin...
- **Sin is your master...**
  - **Under sin means that sin is your master...**
    - ◆ **Romans 6:14 For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law but under grace.**
- **Master Sin**
  - When you play a sport or have a job or are in the army...
    - ◆ You have leaders... people over you...
    - ◆ You might say... I am under the command of General Patton...
      - I am under his command...
  - **This is the sense in which we are "under sin"**
    - ◆ Sin is our commander... telling us what to do...
- **Before we go into more detail... consider this...**
  - **The nation of Israel** was given the law of God after they left Egypt...
    - There at the base of Mt. Sinai they heard the voice of God

- They beheld the glory of the Lord
  - They saw the smoke and lightning and thunders surrounding the glory of God
  - As a Nation they received the Law of God...
  - **The people had the revelation of God given to them...**
    - They were told how they were to walk before God...
    - They were told of what was pleasing and displeasing to God...
  - **Yet in the end...** even after thousands of years with God's Word...
    - They were still under sin... they were never able to change their nature on their own...
  - **Nothing changes the fact that man is under sin...**
    - And the nation of Israel is God's reminder to us...
    - That at our very core... we are all **rotten...**
      - ◆ **Rotten**
  - **Here God shows man where the problem lies...**
    - It is not in His Word... rather... it is in those who try to keep His Word...
    - They just can't... none of them... not one...
  - **Why? Because their flesh is weak...**
    - **Romans 8:3 For what the Law could not do, <sup>b</sup>weak as it was through the flesh, God *did*: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh,**
    - Where is the problem? Is it in God's laws...? NO!
      - ◆ **The weakness is in the flesh...**
        - You can have the perfect sword...
          - Beautifully crafted... perfect weight... sharp enough to cut through anything...
          - Yet... in the hands of an amateur it is worthless...
          - And we are all amateurs...
  - **The Jewish Nation had the Sword... the perfect Sword, but they were unable to wield it...**
- **Under Sin... What does it mean?**
- **Man** is in one of two states or conditions:
    - 1) Under sin
    - 2) Under grace...
      - ◆ And all men were at one point UNDER SIN
  - **What matters???**
    - It is our condition before God that matters
    - It matters... which state are we in?
- **What does it not mean to be under sin?**
- It is not simply that we do wrong things...
  - It is not simply that we say a bad word, or have a bad thought, or do a wrong action...
  - **Likewise...**
    - Being a good person... doing good things... having a good demeanor or work ethic
    - Being good to the poor and homeless does not exempt man from their being under sin
- **Being Under Sin has more to do with our nature:**
- We are under the power and pollution of sin
  - **Why?**
    - Because we have been born this way...
    - And we all have chosen sin... it is our nature...
- **Here is some proof:**
- **Ephesians 5:8 for at one time you were darkness**
  - **Ephesians 2:3 and were by nature children of wrath**
- **Are You Under Sin?**

- If you have never been transferred you are still in this pitiful condition...
- A man must be made right with God BY FAITH to change his position...

➤ **Now... Paul continues to show the depth of man's sinful nature...**

- He does not stop at saying we are "under sin"
- He is now going to add some details... add some proof texts...
- And He starts in the Psalms...

❖ **2) No One is Righteous**

- *"None is righteous, no, not one;*

➤ **God demands Righteousness from all men...**

- Therefore... this statement is a clear indication of a problem...
- Righteousness can be described as being like God in our character...
  - So... God's righteous character refers to God always doing that which is right

➤ **Here is the standard for us:**

- **Matthew 5:48** You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.
- That is a problem isn't it?
- That is the standard...

➤ **Remember what Paul is doing here.... Proving that all men are under sin and in need of Jesus**

➤ **Question:** Are there differing levels of righteousness?

- This is going to be a bummer for some of us in here...
- It really is...
- **Because there is righteousness and there is unrighteousness**
  - There are no levels for us...
  - None of us better than the other...

- **John MacArthur described it kind of like this...**

- **Trying to achieve God's level of righteousness is like a group of men jumping from Hawaii to California:**
  - ◆ A great athlete may jump 30 ft
  - ◆ A good athlete may jump 20 ft
  - ◆ A regular person may jump 10 ft
  - ◆ Bob and I may jump 5 ft
- **If we are measuring b/w the people there would be a difference...**
  - ◆ But... the measure is from Hawaii to California
  - ◆ Their effort... although differing... is nothing compared to the vast jump before them
  - ◆ None of them got remotely close...
  - ◆ Their efforts was practically useless

➤ **None is righteous, no, not one...**

- Not even one person... ever... is righteous...
- Not on their own at least...
- Not even one!

➤ **Consider the Example of Job**

- **Job 1:1** There was a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job; and that man was blameless, upright, fearing God and turning away from evil.
  - The books starts this way...
- **Job 1:8** The Lord said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job? For there is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, fearing God and turning away from evil."
  - Then we see God commending Job....
  - Job was a great guy...
- **God allowed him** to be tested by Satan and Job lost a lot... children, possessions and his health

- **He had friends** come and try to comfort him and even try to rebuke him...
  - Thinking maybe they could help him see why this was happening to him...
  - They did not understand what God was doing...
- **At one point we see something interesting...**
  - Job had a flaw in his thinking
    - ◆ Job 32:1 Then these three men ceased answering Job, because he was righteous in his own eyes.
- **Then... after hearing from one more of his so called friends...**
  - God asks job something like 80 questions...
  - At the end... God says to Job
    - ◆ Job 40:1-2 Then the Lord said to Job, “Will the faultfinder contend with the Almighty? Let him who reproves God answer it.”
  - **Job now sees he has a problem...**
    - ◆ Job 40:3-4 Then Job answered the Lord and said, “Behold, I am insignificant; what can I reply to You? I lay my hand on my mouth.
- **This self called “righteous” man begins to see things clearly**
  - When he does... He sees He is not as righteous as He thought...
  - **And He repents**
    - ◆ Job 42:5-6 “I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear; But now my eye sees You; Therefore I retract, And I repent in dust and ashes.”
- If this man.... Commended by God before heaven... is not righteous... what about the rest of us?
- **There is none righteous, no, not one...**
  - Psalm 143:2 Enter not into judgment with your servant, for no one living is righteous before you.
  - Jeremiah 17:9-10 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it? “I the Lord search the heart and test the mind, to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his deeds.”
- **Being Righteous means...**
  - You seek God with all of your heart, soul, mind and strength and love your neighbor as yourself
    - And you have done this always and continually from when you were born until the day you die....
    - There is none righteous
- **Without God’s intervention.... None of us can be righteous**

### ❖ 3) No One Understands

- ***11 no one understands***
- **Understands what? Understands God...**
  - No one understands who God is and what He expects, etc
- **Understands... from the greek word synion (sin knee a knee)**
  - Meaning: to know and comprehend the nature or meaning of
- **Man does not understand the nature and glory of God...**
  - We have no clue about God... without His help...
- **Back to MacArthur’s example...**
  - These men are ready jump from Hawaii to California...
  - Now the problem is... they do not know which way to jump...
  - They lack this knowledge...
- **Illustration:**
  - We are all a bunch of kindergarteners in a Nuclear Physics Class
  - We are all a bunch of men trying to understand the emotions of a female...
    - Whew... that is tough!

- **No one understands: Look at this indictment from God**
  - Jeremiah 4:22 “For my people are foolish; they know me not; they are stupid children; they have no understanding. They are ‘wise’—in doing evil! But how to do good they know not.”
- **Without God giving us knowledge, none of us would understand Him...**
  - John closes out his first epistle this way:
    - 1 John 5:20-21 <sup>20</sup> And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life. <sup>21</sup> Little children, keep yourselves from idols.

#### ❖ 4) No One Seeks God

- *; no one seeks for God.*
- **Seek is a very strong work...**
  - Seeking is not the same things as asking...
  - Asking is an almost passive thing...
- **Seeking implies effort and energy and direction...**
  - Seeking to enjoy God
  - Seeking the ways of God
  - Seeking the will of God
  - Seeking to worship God
  - Seeking the Word of God...
- **Who does this on their own?**
  - Who has ever sought God of their own accord...
  - Has anyone ever sought God without being provoked by God to seek Him
  - Has anyone ever sought God without being told to seek Him
- **What does this particular Word mean?**
  - Seek: to try to get, reach or find something in a diligent or exact manner...
  - **Illustration:**
    - It is like the gold miner... who puts his life’s energy and time and money on the line
      - ◆ To find a place to mine...
      - ◆ And then He digs through every particle of dirt...
      - ◆ Looking for Gold...
- **No One seeks God**
  - What about all the religions in the world? Are they seeking God...
  - All other religions are religions of man...
  - Where man is seeking to live according to his ways and thoughts...
  - False religions obviously are not seeking God...
  - Because they have made their own way to God
- **Even His Chosen Nation forsook Him...**
  - Even after being given the law and prophets... the riverted back to themselves
  - Hosea 7:2 The pride of Israel testifies to his face; yet they do not return to the Lord their God, nor seek him, for all this.
- **God must intervene:**
  - Isaiah 65:1 I was ready to be sought by those who did not ask for me; I was ready to be found by those who did not seek me. I said, “Here I am, here I am,” to a nation that was not called by my name.
- **How should we respond?...**
  - Isaiah 55:6-7 “Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; <sup>7</sup> let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.



## ❖ Remember Paul's Conclusion

### ➤ Verse 19

- so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God.

### ➤ What do we have to say for ourselves?

- Is there any defense we can make before God...
- **Job tried and failed...**
  - God stopped Job's mouth... Job said... I will cover my mouth...
  - I have nothing worth saying

### ➤ Illustration:

- **I kind of** wanted to find a way to brag about some of my athletic skills..
  - But... I figured this was a better illustration...
- **When** I was in college... I thought myself to be a decent basketball player...
  - At least for my height...
  - I played a lot... and I played in some tournaments
  - And I thought I was pretty good one on one...
- **Well...** there was this guy that was in pre med...
  - Neat guy... I had a chemistry lab with him...
  - His name was Joe...
  - And He played a little bit too...
- **If you** know me at all... you know I had to challenge him...
  - I won't say I was overly confident when we played...
  - But I was pretty confident...
  - I even talked some good natured smack...
- **Then we started the game...**
  - And it went downhill really quick for me at that point...
  - He was just a couple inches taller than me... nothing that should have mattered...
  - He told me he didn't have any cartilage left in his knee...
- **Well... after he blocked my first three shots... I thought maybe he replaced the cartilage**
  - With some special substance in his knee that made him jump like Micheal Jordan...
- **Long Story short...**
  - He crushed me... crushed me... and shook my hand kindly at the end...
- **I had nothing to say...**
  - I didn't even ask for a rematch as I normally would...
  - I had nothing to say except... man... your good... really good...

### ➤ So it will be with us...

- We have nothing to say...
- Our mouth is stopped... End of Story...

## ❖ Good News?

### ➤ All men are under sin...

- None righteous
- None who understand
- None who seek God...

### ➤ This is a bleak outlook for men... but... is that all today is about?

- Or is there a light at the end of the tunnel...
- Is there Hope...

### ➤ There is great Hope...

- We are not going to be like the doctor that gives the man news about a deadly disease...
- And says... you are going to die... And there is nothing we can do about it..

### ➤ Rather... there is great Hope for you Today...



- Hope for the unrighteous
- Hope for those under sin
- Hope for those who do not understand
- Hope for those who do not seek God...
- **Your Hope is that God offers you a righteousness from Himself...**
  - He offers to clothe you in the Righteous nature of His son
    - He offers to declare you legally righteous before Him
  - **He offers to take you from being under sin to being under grace...**
    - Grace that is freely given to you...
    - Grace that gives you life instead of death...
    - Free of charge...
  - **He offers understanding to those who do not understand**
    - His Spirit will help you understand...
  - **Finally... to everyone who does not seek God...**
    - Jesus is seeking you...
    - He is leaving the other sheep to find you today...
    - Will you receive Jesus today
      - ◆ **John 1:12-13 But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, <sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.**
- **How do you receive Jesus and these promises from God...**
  - It is by Faith...
  - It is by Faith in the Gospel Of Jesus Christ...
    - **Romans 1:16-17 <sup>16</sup> For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. <sup>17</sup> For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."**
  - **Maybe this verse is clearer for today...**
    - **Galatians 3:22 But the Scripture has shut up everyone under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.**

#### ❖ **Application:**

- Christians: Our response should be inexpressible gratitude
- Unregenerate Man: Your response should be to turn to God

#### ❖ **Invitation**