

# Romans – Crown Jewel of Salvation

## 7 - Just How Bad Are We?

### Romans 3:9-20

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brad Bigney

**Three Reminders** of what the Bible says about our true condition before God.

#### I. **Get a Grip on the Fact that Apart from Christ in Your Life Your Spiritual Condition Couldn't Be Worse! v. 9-10**

**Romans 3:9-10** “What then? Are we better than they? Not at all. For we have previously charged both Jews and Greeks that they are all under sin. As it is written: ‘There is none righteous, no, not one.’”

The phrase “under sin” is describing much more than the fact that we’re all in the category of ‘sinners’ and that we do sin. He’s saying that our very nature and condition is ruled by sin. Apart from Christ we live under the dominion, power, and control of sin... and that’s what’s crushing the very life out of us.

You’re not a good person that makes bad choices. Your very nature is twisted and sighing under the weight of your sin nature that owns you.

#### II. **The Evidence for Your Desperate Condition is Overwhelming v. 11-18**

##### A. **Without Christ You Don't Even Know What You're Looking For v. 11**

People don't know what they're looking for. They know their life is incomplete. They know things are not working as they should. They're finding out life is hard. But they don't know what they're looking for.

**Romans 3:11** “There is none who understands; there is none who seeks after God.”

The Bible's very clear on this. Without the Holy Spirit at work in your life, you'll have no interest in the things of God. God has to make the first move in your life.

Religion is what we create and design to get God to do what we want... but Christianity and the Gospel is distinctly different. It throws the spotlight on what Christ has done for us – that can only become yours when you humble yourself... and let go of your life... and say, ‘Yes, Lord Jesus, do whatever you want. Take me. I turn FROM my sin and I turn TO you, and I cry out for mercy.’

People seek the BENEFITS of God, while still RUNNING from the PERSON of God. They seek His hand, but not His face.

**Matthew 10:39** “He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it.”

##### B. **Without Christ You End Up Taking Costly Detours v. 12**

**Romans 3:12** “They have all gone out of the way; they have together become unprofitable...”

We're way off course. We've missed it altogether, and we don't even know it.

The Greek word for ‘unprofitable’ means “wasted” or “worthless.” It was a word they used originally for sour milk! It literally means that we’ve gone sour. We stink!

Here’s the great danger: As life begins to sour without Christ, it leaves people wide open to counterfeits that lead them way out of the way... that advertise “Life” but cannot provide the eternal that’s only found in Jesus Christ.

“Buddhism is just that ‘made-to-order’ spirituality that invites you to be good without God and makes you the captain of your destiny. If it doesn't work out this time around, there is the next life in which the chance comes again. With hundreds of laws mandated but no transcendent lawgiver, goodness takes on a very pragmatic purpose. That’s why it sits so well with the intellectual who does not believe in God and believes spirituality is a personal affair, or with the person who has an uncritical mind and just wants some solace from religious ceremony...” RZIM Newsletter, September 2001, Ravi Zacharias

### **C. Without Christ You’ll Never Find Real Peace v. 16-17**

**Romans 3:16-17** “Destruction and misery are in their ways; and the way of peace they have not known.”

Paul is quoting from a sobering passage in the book of Isaiah where it says...

**Isaiah 59:8** “The way of peace they have not known, and there is no justice in their ways. They have made themselves crooked paths; whoever takes that way shall not know peace.”

The reason people can’t find peace is because real peace is only found in the Person of Jesus Christ.

**John 16:33** “These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”

**John 14:27** “Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you...”

## **III. The Only Hope for Your Condition is Found in the Person and Work of Jesus Christ**

### **A. You Will Stand Before God as Guilty**

The NIV says ‘the whole world will be held accountable to God’

### **B. You Will Be Speechless**

You’ll have no defense. Whether you’re rebellious and wild or a ‘respectable sinner’... every single person will be accountable and speechless before the God of the universe.

The time for excuse making... and explanations... and rationalizations will be over!

- Why does Paul press so hard on this theme of the universality of human guilt and sin?

Because it’s impossible to really hear the good news of the Gospel until you’ve first heard the gavel crash and the verdict has resounded throughout the courtroom – “Guilty as charged!”

As long as we live in denial about our condition we can never really hear the sweet sound of the Gospel.

**Romans 3:20-22** “Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin. But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, even the righteousness of God which is through faith in Jesus Christ to all and on all who believe...”