



Christian Life Fellowship

Becoming fully devoted followers of Christ



All Are Guilty

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Introduction:

We continue our study of Romans. This morning we are going to look at [Romans 3](#). As Paul begins this portion of his letter, he writes in the style of a conversation between himself and the Jews. There is a series of questions he answers as though in a dialogue.

What advantage is there then in being a Jew? To be the trustee of Divine revelation was an incredible privilege. To have Almighty God make a covenant with you and give you the boundaries in the form of laws that would help you maintain your end of the covenant is a powerful thing. On top of all that there were precious promises that God made to the Jewish people as a race which involve blessing them and the entire world through them. Paul makes it clear that in spite of all those promises and blessings, they still were sinful people just like the Gentiles. They still needed the grace of God and still had to repent, turn from sin and trust God to find salvation. No good deed or work of righteousness that they did could bring them the salvation they desired or needed.

The true function and power of the law is to heighten our awareness of sin. We cannot acknowledge our fallen nature or the bent we have to break the law and trespass against it if we don't know what the law says. Paul wants to make it very clear that Jews and Gentiles alike, we are not OK. We are all lawbreakers and we are accountable to God. If we are self-righteous, we are no better than the Jewish people who Paul was writing to in Romans. Don't get the feeling that this doesn't apply to you. It applies to every single person who has ever lived.

I. All Are Guilty

In [verses 7-12](#) Paul reiterates that every person is guilty. None is righteous, not even one. We don't understand God and our relationship with God. Our mind has been affected by the downward pull of sin. No one seeks God without the Holy Spirit's help. Paul uses passages from the Old Testament Psalms to build his case. Sin is an ugly word. Weakness, complexes and errors are all words that we use to skirt the topic of sin. We can never change unless we are first willing to admit we need to change. We have to first admit we are dealing with sin before we can repent and turn away from it.

II. Evidence of Sin: Words, Actions, Attitudes

Words, actions and attitudes are dealt with in these verses. The whole of man's being is affected by sin. **Man's mind – none that understands, man's heart – none that seeks after God and man's will – none that does good.** This brings to a climax the true picture of each of us. We all need God, Jew and Gentile alike. [Verses 13-18](#) describe human beings from head to toe. [Verses 13-14](#) talk about the speech; the throat, tongue, lips and mouth. The connection between words and character are obvious as seen in

Matthew 12:34 – out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks.

Our words are powerful.

By nature the sinful person is spiritually dead. Because of that, only death can come out of our speech. Speech can be redeemed. Once our heart becomes impacted with the life of Christ, then our whole being should be changed and impacted. Our speech is changed because our heart is changed. There should be encouraging, honest, truthful, loving, kind, wholesome, life-sustaining and life-giving words coming from our mouths. They have the ability to bring hope and life or to bring discouragement and death. They have the ability to build up or tear down. They have the ability to lift or crush. Be careful what is in your heart, for your mouth will tell whether negative, critical, cutting comments, or positive, uplifting, healing comments.

Our walk is powerful.

In **verses 15 and 16** Paul pictures the sinner's feet. Just as words are deceitful, so ways are destructive. The person who does not follow Christ is on a path of death, misery and destruction. The lost individual is on the broad road that leads to destruction.

Matthew 7:13 Enter through the narrow gate because the gate and road that lead to destruction are wide. Many enter through the wide gate.

Just because many people are engaging in a particular activity or are going a certain direction does not make it right. We are warned in this passage that many will enter the wide gate, the broad road, and it will lead them straight to their destruction. Repentance and trusting Christ are the only way to turn around. The things we do, the places we

Conclusion:

The purpose of the law is to expose our need for righteousness. It is not to provide a means of righteousness for us. Sometimes we think if we can adhere to a set of rules, then we will be righteous. As human beings we like to make formulas for things and if we come up with the right formula, then we will get the results we want every time. The problem with that is the variable of man's will. **Galatians 3:24 Let me put it another way. The law was our guardian and teacher to lead us until Christ came. So now, through faith in Christ, we are made right with God.** Paul says the law has become our tutor to lead us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. The Bible was given to show us that we cannot live up to God's standards and we need Christ.

go, are not always the paths of righteousness and peace. Those paths can be wayward and they will take us away from God.

Our thoughts are powerful.

Sooner or later we will act on those things we dwell on and think about. That is why I believe every temptation begins in the mind. If we don't defeat it there, we will fall into its trap. In **Verse 17** Paul talks about the minds of those who do not follow Christ. They do not know the peace of God. They do not know the truth of God. They believe the lies of the destroyer, Satan himself. God's way of peace is through Jesus Christ. **Isaiah 26:3- You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in you, whose thoughts are fixed on you.**

Our attitudes are powerful.

Verse 18 describes the pride of those who do not follow Christ. Pride is something that we, as followers of Christ, need to be aware of and guard against. The Bible gives us examples of the outcome of pride and also warns us about pride in our lives. Pride will keep us from seeking God. **Psalm 10:4- These wicked people are too proud to seek God. They seem to think that God is dead.** How often have we heard society preach that God is dead! That message comes from pride in people who say there is no God. People who think they can live their lives without God are foolish. Pride comes before destruction. There is no other way to get around the truth that a proud heart will end up destroyed. **Proverbs 16:18 Pride goes before destruction, and haughtiness before a fall.** All sin including pride, ends with destruction. God detests a heart that is in a proud state.