



Romans

Right With God

Everyone's A Sinner

Lesson Seventeen

Mission Arlington/Mission Metroplex Curriculum

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Everyone's A Sinner

Paul is continuing his discussion of the fact that we all approach God as equals. It is common for people to want to be better than someone else. We try to use all kinds of things to show how much richer, smarter, funnier, stronger and/or more talented we are than others. It's just human nature, but Paul says that God doesn't look at us like that. (Read Romans 3:9-18)

Paul hears the question, maybe from the unseen questioner we have mentioned, "Are the Jews better than others?" His answer to the question in short is, "No." He says that "both the Jews and the Greeks are all under sin." The word "under" speaks of authority. It is used of soldiers who are under the authority of a commander. They must obey his commands. All of us, according to Paul, must obey the commands of sin.

Paul launches into a style of teaching...or preaching...often used by the rabbis. They would string together a group of Old Testament Scriptures to make a point. Here Paul uses several Scriptures. He quotes Psalm 14:1-3; 5:9; 140:3; 10:7; Isaiah 59:7, 8; and Psalm 36:1.

In verse ten, he says that there is not one person who can claim righteousness before God... not even one. In verses eleven and twelve Paul quotes: Psalm 14:1-3, "The fool says in his heart, 'There is no God.' They are corrupt, their deeds are vile; there is no one who does good. The Lord looks down from heaven on the sons of men to see if there are any who understand, any who seek God. All have turned aside, they have together become corrupt; there is no one who does good, not even one." Not one...not even one! WOW, that's it...the final word...not one!

What a sad picture! God is looking down to His creation...the creation that was perfect until humans messed it up. God is looking down and sees no one looking up...no one seeking God. They are busy, but they have "turned aside." They are busy, but busy about doing the wrong, useless things. *

In verse thirteen, Paul addresses the way humans speak. He quotes from Psalm 5:9, "not a word from their mouth can be trusted; their heart is filled with destruction. Their throat is an open grave; with their tongue they speak deceit." And, in verse fourteen, he quotes from Psalm 10:7: "His mouth is full of curses lies and threats; trouble and evil are under his tongue." He pictures evil mouths...speaking that which is damaging, hurtful, negative, that tears down, ruins and leaves death and decomposition in its wake.

Next he quotes Isaiah 59:7, 8: "Their feet rush into sin; they are swift to shed innocent blood

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Their thoughts are evil thoughts; ruin and destruction mark their ways. The way of peace they do not know; there is no justice in their paths; they have turned them into crooked roads; no one who walks in them will know peace.”

Paul lists fourteen terrible things about all humans in verses ten through eighteen. But the worst, he leaves for last. It is, “There is no fear of God before their eyes.” There can be no greater evil. Think about it, people just ignore God. They have no respect for the One who created everything and will one day judge us all. That is a much more awful sin than any of the others mentioned.

We are all sinners. Paul will say it again in verse twenty-three. A person is taught in AA that they should always say, “I am an alcoholic.” It doesn’t matter if they have been sober for 10 years, they are still an alcoholic. We should always view ourselves as sinners. We are! Even if we manage to be really good for a period of time, we continue to have the potential for sin, and sin is just waiting to take over and lead us to do wrong....and it does!

The only escape is God’s grace and the power of salvation in His Son.

Scripture Memory: “There is no fear of God before their eyes.” Romans 3:18

*Underlined statements in this Teacher’s Guide appear in the Student Worksheet with blanks to be filled in by the student during the lesson. Words in the Student Worksheet may not appear exactly as printed in the Teacher’s Guide.

For the Teacher:

Lesson Goal: To show students that sin is always bad and that God’s truth will overcome sin.

1. Verse nine begins with “What then...” The next part of his letter is based on what he said in chapter 2:17 to 3:8.
2. Paul preaches in verses 1—18 like the Jewish rabbis of the day. He strung together several Old Testament verses to prove or clarify his point. When the rabbis did this it was called *charaz*, (care-as) which literally means “stringing pearls.”
3. Another word which we should find interesting is in verse twelve. Paul says, “they have become useless.” That word useless can be translated “gone bad.” It was used of milk that had soured. Sinners who refuse to accept the grace of God are already useless. They are of no value...they’ve gone bad.
4. There are fourteen terrible things about humans that Paul lists in verses 10 through 18: 1. No one is righteous. (See Romans 3:23) 2. No one understands (Ephesians 5:17) 3. No one seeks God. (I Corinthians 10:20) 4. Everyone turned away. (Isaiah 53:6) 5. Everyone is worthless. (Psalm 53:1b) 6. No one does good. (Psalm 34:14) 7. Everyone has a throat like a grave. (Psalm 5:9) 8. All tongues tell lies. (Psalm 120:2) 9. In all mouths is hidden poison. (Psalm 140:3) 10. All mouths speak curses and bitterness. (Luke 6:45) 11. All feet are murderous. (Isaiah 59:7,8) 12. Everyone is destructive. (Genesis 6:11) 13. No one knows peace. (Wisdom—Proverbs 3:17) 14.No one fears God. (Matthew 10:28, Psalm 14:1-3)
5. There is a significant lack of fear (reverence, acknowledgement, respect) for God in our day. We have the truth about God. Do we dare keep it to ourselves? Would that not be like a doctor who has a medication that will cure a deadly disease, but who is not willing to tell parents of a dying child about the medication?

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Student Worksheet

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=God is looking down to His creation...the creation that was _____ until humans messed it up. God is looking down and sees no one looking ____...no one seeking God. They are busy, but they have “_____ aside.” They are busy, but busy about doing the wrong, _____ things.

=Psalm 10:7: “His mouth is full of curses lies and threats; trouble and _____ are under his _____.” He pictures evil mouths...speaking that which is damaging, hurtful, negative, that tears down, ruins and leaves _____ and decomposition in its wake.

=We should always view ourselves as _____. Even if we manage to be really good for a period of time, we continue to have the potential for sin, and sin is just _____ to take over and lead us to do _____...and it does!

=The only escape is God's _____ and the _____ of salvation in His Son.

Scripture Memory: “There is no fear of God before their eyes.” Romans 3:18

A Roman Road to Salvation:

Romans 3:23 “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” Everyone is a sinner and needs salvation.

Romans 6:23a “For the wages of sin is death.” The law of God is unchangeable. If someone sins the penalty must be paid, the payment is death.

Romans 5:8 “But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners Christ died for us.” God loves us so much, according to John 3:16, that He sent His Son, Jesus, to die for our sins.

Romans 6:23b “But the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” The penalty for sin is spiritual death, but God, through the death of Jesus on the cross, took the penalty for the sins of all people, and now everyone can have eternal life. See also, II Corinthians 5:21

Romans 10:9, 10 “That if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.” To personally receive the gift of God, eternal life in Christ Jesus, you trust God to be what He says He is. Believing that “God raised Him (Jesus) from the dead” is to accept all that the Bible says about God and His Son, Jesus. Then you speak (confess) the words, “Jesus is Lord,” as a statement of faith. Believing “with your heart” means that you believe with your mind and with everything that you are.

Romans 10:13 “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” You have the promise of God Himself that if you do what Romans 10:9, 10 says, you will become God's child and have eternal life.

Romans 12:1, 2 “I urge you brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—His good, pleasing and perfect will.” Becoming a Christian is a life-long act of faith and worship.