

Romans Session 40
The Guilt of all Men 3
Romans 3:10-17

Romans 3:10-18 (NASB)

¹⁰ *as it is written, "THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE;*

¹¹ *THERE IS NONE WHO UNDERSTANDS, THERE IS NONE WHO SEEKS FOR GOD;*

¹² *ALL HAVE TURNED ASIDE, TOGETHER THEY HAVE BECOME USELESS; THERE IS NONE WHO DOES GOOD, THERE IS NOT EVEN ONE."*

¹³ *"THEIR THROAT IS AN OPEN GRAVE, WITH THEIR TONGUES THEY KEEP DECEIVING," "THE POISON OF ASPS IS UNDER THEIR LIPS";*

¹⁴ *"WHOSE MOUTH IS FULL OF CURSING AND BITTERNESS";*

¹⁵ *"THEIR FEET ARE SWIFT TO SHED BLOOD,*

¹⁶ *DESTRUCTION AND MISERY ARE IN THEIR PATHS,*

¹⁷ *AND THE PATH OF PEACE THEY HAVE NOT KNOWN."*

¹⁸ *"THERE IS NO FEAR OF GOD BEFORE THEIR EYES."*

In our study we have already seen part of the 1st of the three categories of charges concerning the accused.

1. Charges concerning the character of the accused (vv-10-12)
2. Charges concerning the conversation of the accused (vv-13-14)
3. Charges concerning the conduct of the accused (vv-15-17)

We have already talked of the 1st of the 13 charges, they being the fact that man is universally evil. That was number one. The second is like unto it and is that man is spiritually ignorant. And in that Paul declares that man is not only unrighteous, but also willingly ignorant of the things of God. He not only does not know but does not want to know.

Tonight we want to add a couple of more to that as Paul lays them out before the Roman Church.

THE NATURAL MAN IS REBELLIOUS

The third, in addition to being universally evil and spiritually ignorant, fallen man is rebellious.

"There is none who seeks for God," Paul declares, alluding again to Psalms 14:2

Judging from the vast number of religions in the world with millions of zealous adherents, one would think that a great many people are diligently seeking after God.

But scripture makes clear, in this passage and many more, that all religious systems and efforts are, in reality, attempts to escape the true God and to discover or manufacture false gods of one's own liking.

God has given the absolute assurance that anyone who seeks Him with his heart will find Him.

Jeremiah 29:13 (NASB)

¹³ *'You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart.'*

Jesus offered the divine promise,

Matthew 7:7-8 (NASB)

⁷ "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

⁸ "For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.

But even with this, the Lord knows that the natural man will never seek Him, and so He Himself seeks out individuals to draw them to Himself.

During the council at Jerusalem in the early days of the church, James reminded the gathering of apostles and elders of God's ancient promises that;

Acts 15:16-17 (NASB)

¹⁶ 'AFTER THESE THINGS I will return, AND I WILL REBUILD THE TABERNACLE OF DAVID WHICH HAS FALLEN, AND I WILL REBUILD ITS RUINS, AND I WILL RESTORE IT,

¹⁷ SO THAT THE REST OF MANKIND MAY SEEK THE LORD, AND ALL THE GENTILES WHO ARE CALLED BY MY NAME,'

Peter gives assurance in the clearest possible words that the Lord does not wish;

2 Peter 3:9 (NASB)

⁹ The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

So let's be clear, manmade religions are demon inspired efforts to escape from God, not to find Him. 'Every person who comes to Jesus Christ for salvation has been sent to Him through the divine initiative of God the Father.

John 6:37 (NASB)

³⁷ "All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out.

John 6:44a (NASB)

⁴⁴ "No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him;

Now then that leaves us with this, that the only person, therefore, who seeks God is the person who has responded positively to God's seeking him.

The person who truly seeks for God is like David, who declared;

Psalms 16:8 (NASB)

⁸ I have set the LORD continually before me; Because He is at my right hand, I will not be shaken.

Such a person;

Matthew 6:33 (NASB)

³³ "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

God becomes the focus of everything.

To truly seek for God is to respect and adore His sovereign majesty and to feed on the truth of His Word.

It is to obey His commandments, to speak to Him in prayer, to live consciously in His presence with a desire to please Him.

No one can do such things naturally, but only by the Spirit of God working through Him. The natural inclination is to seek after their own interests.

Philippians 2:21 (NASB)

²¹ *For they all seek after their own interests, not those of Christ Jesus.*

So we see that man is naturally rebellious.

THE NATURAL MAN IS WAYWARD

Again Paul quotes from Psalms

Psalms 14:3 (NASB)

³ *They have all turned aside, together they have become corrupt; There is no one who does good, not even one.*

"They have all turned aside" says Paul. Men are naturally wayward. "THEY HAVE ALL TURNED ASIDE"

The person who is naturally evil, and naturally ignorant, and naturally rebellious, will inevitably naturally live apart from God's will.

Speaking of the universal human inclination to go against God's way, Isaiah wrote,

Isaiah 53:6 (NASB)

⁶ *All of us like sheep have gone astray, Each of us has turned to his own way; But the LORD has caused the iniquity of us all To fall on Him.*

In the early Church the gospel was sometimes called "the way" and Christians were sometimes called followers of the way.

Jesus Himself said, "*I am the way and the truth, and the life (John 14:6)*"

Even the demon who had given a certain slave girl the power of divination acknowledged through her that Paul and his companions were bond servants of the most High God. Who are proclaiming to you the way of salvation; ("*Acts 16:17*")

Luke referred to some Jewish opponents of Paul's ministry in Ephesus as men who were speaking evil of the Way, ("*Acts 19:9*")

And because of that opposition,

Acts 19:23 (NASB)

²³ *About that time there occurred no small disturbance concerning the Way.*

In his defense before the governor Felix, Paul said,

Acts 24:14 (NASB)

¹⁴ *"But this I admit to you, that according to the Way which they call a sect I do serve the God of our fathers, believing everything that is in accordance with the Law and that is written in the Prophets;*

The writer of Hebrews said;

Hebrews 10:19-20 (NASB)

¹⁹ *Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus,*
²⁰ *by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh,*

Peter spoke of false teachers who had infiltrated the church as those who had forsaken **"the right way"** of the true Gospel which is **"the way of righteousness."** (2 Pet. 2:15, 21)

On the other hand, the basic pattern of living of the natural man is characterized as the **"evil way"** (Prov. 8:13) ***That is the way that seemeth right unto man, but whose end is the way of death"*** (Prov. 14:12)

The great evangelist Dwight L. Moody told of being asked by the warden of a large prison in New York City to speak to the inmates and because there was no chapel or other suitable or safe place to speak to the group, he preached from a gangway as one end of a large tier of cells, unable to see the face of a single prisoner. After the message he asked permission to talk face to face with some of the men through the bars of their cells. He soon discovered that most of the men had not even listened to his messages. When Moody would ask an inmate why he was in prison, the man almost invariably declared his innocence. He would insist that a false witness testified against him, or that he was mistaken for the person who really committed the crime, or that the judge or jury was prejudiced against him, or he would give some other reason he was unjustly incarcerated.

He began to get discouraged. But when he had gotten most of the way through with the men he found one man with his elbows on his knees and two streams of tears running down the cheeks. I looked in at the little window and said, my friend what is our trouble? He looked up with despair and remorse on his face and said, "My sins are more than I can bear. I said, Thank God for that. The evangelist was thankful because he knew that no man is open to God's way until he can see and forsake his own way. He will not seek salvation until he admits he is lost.

Man says Paul is universally evil, he is willfully ignorant, and he is rebellious, and he is wayward, never seeking God's way until the Spirit does a work that allows him to see and hear.

Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God. And how shall they hear unless someone shall go and tell them.