



God's Righteousness and Human Sin

Romans 3:1-20

Something to Start Us Off

- Try to give a biblical response to this statement, "All human beings are basically good."

Then let's remember this:

- Paul started this letter by pointing out Gentile sin – depravity that led to pervasive evil.
- Then he addressed Jewish sin, which was more like self-righteousness or hypocrisy.
- Now he gives us something of a summary.

Something to Notice

Let's read Romans 3:1-20 slowly and mark a few phrases that tell us something important. Here are some that might stand out to us.

- 3:2 The Jews were entrusted with the oracles of God
- 3:8 And why not do evil that good may come?
- 3:10 None is righteous, no not one
- 3:20 Through the law comes knowledge of sin.

Something to Learn

Key Insights:

* Paul references Psalm 14:1-3 and 53:1-4 in this chapter. See those Psalms for a comparison. It helps us to see that Paul is not being creative in what he says here. He is drawing his teaching from the Bible.

Discussion Questions:

- Describe in your own words the advantages that the Jews had over the Gentiles in the ancient world.
- Why might some people slanderously charge Christians with saying that it was fine to commit all kinds of sin?
- Comment on Paul's description of human nature in this chapter.
- If we are not justified by keeping the law, then what good is the law anyway?
- After studying this Romans 3:1-20, try again to give a biblical response to this statement, "All human beings are basically good."

Something to Take Home

- Memorize and/or meditate on Romans 3:20 this week. This verse reminds us why we need a Savior.