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### Rice Memorial MBC

**Rice Memorial Missionary Baptist Church**  
Apostle Walter F. Camp, Presiding Senior Pastor  
Pastor David K. Baker III, 2<sup>nd</sup> Presiding  
802 W. 15<sup>th</sup>, Little Rock, AR 72202, 501-773-6546  
[www.RiceMemorialBaptistChurch.org](http://www.RiceMemorialBaptistChurch.org)

### **Under Sin's Power**

Definitions in **bold letters** are from **Strong's** Exhaustive Concordance  
Other definitions are from **Webster's** Dictionary, 1828 /1913 Edition  
or Roget's Thesaurus – **July 10, 2016**

### **Romans 3:9-20**

**Introduction:** The apostle, in this chapter, carries on his discourse concerning **justification**. He had already **proved the guilt** BOTH of **Gentiles** and **Jews**. Now in this chapter, **I.** He answers some objections that might be made against what he had said about the Jews, Romans 3:1-8. **II.** He asserts the guilt and corruption of mankind in common, both Jews and Gentiles, Romans 3:9-18. **III.** He argues thence that **justification must needs be by faith**, and **not by the law**, which he gives several reasons for (Romans 3:19-31). The many digressions in his writings render his discourse sometimes a little difficult, but his scope is evident. (Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/mhm/romans-3.html>)

**Romans 3:1-4**, What **advantage** then hath the **Jew**? Or what **profit** is there of circumcision? Much every way: chiefly, because that unto them were committed the **oracles (utterance)** of God. For what if **SOME did not believe?** shall **their UNBELIEF** make the **FAITH** of God **without effect?**

God forbid: yea, **LET GOD be TRUE**, but **every man a liar**; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged.

**NOTE:** The main benefit of being a Jew is, to possess the sacred Scriptures and their instructions. **Unto them were committed** - Or were **intrusted**, were confided. The word translated "were committed," is what is commonly employed to express "faith" or "confidence," and it implied "confidence" in them on the part of God in intrusting his oracles to them; a confidence which was not misplaced, for no people ever guarded a sacred trust or deposit with more fidelity, than the Jews did the **Sacred Scriptures**. ...It is evidently used here to denote the **Scriptures**, as being what was spoken by God, and particularly perhaps the **divine promises**. ...They contained, besides, many precious promises respecting the future dignity of the nation in reference to **the Messiah**. (Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/bnb/romans-3.html>)

**Romans 3:5-9**, But if **our unrighteousness** **commend** (present as worthy of notice) the **righteousness** of God, what shall we say? **Is God unrighteous who taketh vengeance?** (I speak as a man) **God forbid:** for then **how shall God judge the world?** For if the truth of God hath more abounded through my lie unto his glory; why yet am I also judged as a sinner? And not rather, (as we be slanderously reported, and as some affirm that we say,) Let us **DO EVIL**, that good may come? whose damnation is just. **What then? are WE better than THEY?** **No, in no wise:** for we **have before proved** **BOTH** Jews and Gentiles, that they are **ALL** under **SIN**...

**NOTE:** for we have before proved; in the preceding chapters, by full instances to a demonstration; and if that cannot be thought sufficient, he goes on to give more proof in

the following "verses": **that both Jews and Gentiles are under sin; UNDER the power and guilt of sin,** and a sentence of condemnation for it; which is equally true of the Jews, who were no better than the Gentiles, for being Abraham's seed, for being circumcised, for having the ceremonial law, and other outward privileges; for they were **equally BORN in sin, and by practice SINNERS,** as the Gentiles: and this is true of God's elect in all nations, who are **no better by NATURE, by birth,** than others; as deserving of the wrath of God as the rest; no better in their tempers and, dispositions, or in the endowments of their minds, or outward circumstances of life; **nor better qualified to receive and improve the grace** of God bestowed on them, than others.  
(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/geb/romans-3.html>)

**Thought 1.** In Romans 5, Paul is led to explain WHY ALL humans, by BIRTH, are under the POWER of SIN. As he'll reveal, it's in our NATURE at BIRTH! But, by "FAITH" in Jesus (Yahshua), it was corrected by the Holy Spirit when we BELIEVED the gospel: entrusting our spiritual well-being to Christ, the Son of God (Yahweh).

**Romans 5:6, 12-14, 18-19,** For when we were yet without strength, in DUE TIME Christ died for the ungodly.  
...Wherefore, as by one man (*Adam*) **sin entered into the world, and DEATH by sin;** and so **death passed upon ALL men,** FOR THAT ALL HAVE SINNED: (For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law. Nevertheless **death reigned** from Adam to Moses, **even over them that had NOT** sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come.  
...Therefore as by the **offence** of ONE (*Adam*) **judgment** came upon **ALL men** to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of ONE (*Jesus*) the free gift came upon **all men** unto justification of life. For as by **ONE** man's **disobedience** **MANY** were **MADE sinners,** so by the **obedience** of **ONE** shall many be **MADE righteous**.

**Thought 2.** We know LIFE came and people are "MADE" righteous by FAITH in Jesus (Yahshua). Paul gets into that truth in Romans 10. But SOME Christians don't continue to read his letter to the Romans and are deceived to "believe" that FAITH is NOT required to receive LIFE. And Paul made this plain in many of his letters!

**Romans 10:1-4,** Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for **Israel** is, that they might BE SAVED. For I bear them record that they have a ZEL of God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of **God's righteousness,** and going about to establish **their OWN righteousness,** have NOT submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God. For Christ is the **end (GOAL) of the law for righteousness** to **EVERY ONE that BELIEVETH.**

**Ephesians 2:8-10,** For by **GRACE** are ye **SAVED** through FAITH; and that not of yourselves: it is the GIFT of God: NOT OF WORKS, lest any man should boast. For we are HIS workmanship, created **in Christ Jesus** unto GOOD WORKS, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

**Galatians 3:11,** But that **no man is justified** by the **LAW** in the sight of God, it is evident: for, THE **JUST SHALL LIVE** (be ALIVE: having LIFE) **by FAITH.**

**Thought 3.** Now, let's go back to Romans chapters 5 - 6 where Paul continues to teach about what happened when we "BELIEVED" on Jesus for spiritual well-being.

**Romans 5:20, 6:1-7,** Moreover the **law entered,** that the **offence** might abound. But where sin abounded, **grace** did much more abound: That as SIN hath reigned unto **DEATH,** even so might **GRACE** reign through **righteousness** unto **ETERNAL LIFE** by Jesus Christ our Lord.

...What shall we say then? Shall we CONTINUE IN SIN, that grace may abound? **God forbid.** How shall we, that are **dead to sin**, **LIVE** any longer therein? Know ye not, that so many of us as were **baptized** INTO Jesus Christ were baptized **INTO his death?**

Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into **death**: that like as Christ was RAISED UP from the **dead** by the glory of the Father, even so we also should **WALK** in **NEWNESS of life**. For if we have been planted together in the LIKENESS of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: Knowing this, that our **OLD MAN** IS **crucified** with **him**, that the **body** of sin might be **destroyed**, that henceforth we should NOT **serve** sin. For he that is **DEAD IS FREED from SIN**.

**Thought 4.** This scripture just said our "OLD MAN" is DEAD. That's speaking of the SIN NATURE with which we were BORN. Now, we have ONLY God's NATURE.

**Romans 8:8-9**, So then they that are IN the FLESH (*nature from Adam who got it from Satan*) cannot please God. But YE are **NOT IN the FLESH** but **IN the Spirit**, if so be that the Spirit of God (Yahweh) **DWELL** IN you.

**Romans 3:10-17**, As it is written, *There is NONE Righteous, NO, NOT ONE: There is none that understandeth, there is NONE that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that DOETH GOOD, no, not one. Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the POISON of asps is under their lips; Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness: Their feet are swift to shed blood: Destruction and misery are in their ways; And the way of PEACE have they NOT known...*

**NOTE:** The apostle is reasoning with Jews; and he proceeds to show from their OWN Scriptures, that what he had affirmed was true. The point to be proved was, that the **Jews**, in the matter of **justification**, **had NO advantage** or preference OVER the Gentiles; that the Jew had failed to keep the Law which had been given him, **as the** Gentile had failed to keep the Law which had been given him; and that both, therefore, were equally **dependent** on the **mercy of God**, **incapable** of being justified and saved by their **WORKS**. To show this, the apostle adduces (presents) texts to show what was the character of the Jewish people; or to show that according to their **own Scriptures**, they were **sinners** NO LESS than the Gentiles.

(Source: <https://www.studyight.org/commentaries/bnb/romans-3.html>)

**Psalms 14:1-3**, The **FOOL** hath said in his **heart (MIND)**, **There is NO God**. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is NONE that DOETH GOOD. The LORD (Yahweh) looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, and **seek God**. They are **ALL** gone aside, they are all together **become filthy**: there is none that doeth good, no, NOT ONE.

**Romans 3:18**, There is **NO FEAR** (*reverence*) of **God** (Yahweh) **BEFORE** *their eyes*.

**NOTE:** The word "fear" here denotes "**REVERENCE, awe, veneration.**" There is no such regard or reverence for the character, authority, and honor of God as to **restrain them from crime**. Their conduct shows that they are not withheld from the commission of iniquity by any regard to the FEAR or FAVOR of God. The only thing that will be effectual in restraining people from sin, will be a regard to the honor and Law of God.

(Source: <https://www.studyight.org/commentaries/bnb/romans-3.html>)

Reverence, **1.** deep RESPECT and esteem (HIGH VALUE) mingled with FEAR and affection (LOVE). **2.** The FEAR acceptable to God, is a filial [CHILD in relation to his parents] fear, an awful reverence of the divine nature, proceeding FROM a just

esteem [high value] of his PERFECTIONS [infinite POWER, holiness, justice, benevolence and wisdom], which produces IN us an inclination (LEANING of the MIND or WILL) TO his service and an UNWILLINGNESS to offend him.).

**Thought 1.** The product of the “reverence” we have for God is a strong confidence (trust [faith])... This why the centurion, in Luke 7, had GREAT FAITH for his servant to be healed. He “understood reverence” for God, the HIGHEST authority in existence.

**Psalm 111:10**, The **fear (reverence)** of the Lord (Yahweh) is the **beginning** of wisdom: a **good understanding** have ALL they that **DO** his commandments...

**Proverbs 14:2**, He that walketh in his UPRIGHTNESS, **feareth** (reverence) the Lord: but he that is **perverse (to turn aside)** in his ways **DESPISETH** him.

**Despiseth defined 959, to disesteem** (to slight [to neglect: 1. to omit by carelessness or DESIGN { a scheme or plan in the mind} 2. to forbear { stop, PAUSE, refuse} to treat with attention or RESPECT ).

**Proverbs 14:26**, In the **FEAR (reverence)** of the Lord (Tahweh) is **STRONG confidence (trust** [FAITH])...

**Romans 3:19-20**, Now we know that what things soever **the LAW** saith, it saith to them who are **UNDER the LAW**: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become GUILTY before God. Therefore by the DEEDS of the law there **shall NO flesh be justified in his sight**: FOR by **the LAW is the knowledge of sin**.

**NOTE: And all the world** - Both Jews and Gentiles, for so the strain of the argument shows. That is, all BY NATURE; **all who are out of Christ; all who are not pardoned**. All are guilty where there is not some scheme contemplating forgiveness, and which is not applied to purify them. The apostle in all this argument speaks of what man is, and ever would be, without some plan of justification appointed by God.

**May become - May “be.”** They are not made guilty by the Law; but the argument from the Law, and from fact, proves that they are guilty.

**Guilty before God** - ὑπόδικος τῷ Θεῷ hupodikos tō Theō Margin, “subject to the judgment of God.” The phrase is taken from courts of justice. It is applied to a man who has not vindicated or defended himself; against whom therefore the charge or the indictment is found true; and who is in consequence **subject to punishment**. The idea is that of subjection to punishment; but always because the man personally **deserves it**, and because being unable to vindicate himself, **he OUGHT to be punished**. It is never used to denote simply an obligation TO punishment, but with reference to **the fact that the punishment is personally deserved.**” This word, rendered “guilty,” is not used elsewhere in the New Testament, nor is it found in the Septuagint.

(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/bnb/romans-3.html>)

**Romans 3:21-26**, But now the **righteousness of God** **WITHOUT the LAW is manifested**, being witnessed by **the LAW** and the **PROPHETS**; Even the righteousness of God which is by **FAITH** of Jesus (Yahshua) Christ unto all and upon all them **that BELIEVE**: for there is no difference: For **ALL have SINNED**, and **come short** of the **GLORY of God**; Being **justified** freely by **his grace** through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus (Yahshua): Whom God hath SET FORTH to be a **propitiation (an expiator [the one that makes amend]) through FAITH in his blood**, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; **To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness**: that he might be JUST, and the JUSTIFIER of him which **BELIEVETH in** Jesus (Yahshua).

**Thought 1.** Notice, in order to receive the benefit of Christ’s death, we HAD to “BELIEVE.”