

An Honest View of Sin

If we are going to live our lives well, we need to take an honest view of our sin. We need a biblical view of our sin. In the early part of Romans, Paul spends two full chapters talking about the sinfulness of humanity. Today we are looking at one more passage about our sinfulness before Paul explains the Gospel. Paul spends so much time on sin because unless we are convinced of our sinfulness, we won't hear the Gospel about Jesus as the good news that it is. In Romans 3:9–20 Paul frames up his argument using the imagery of the courtroom. He presents the charge, lays out the evidence, and then the verdict. May this passage help us to take an honest look at our sin so that we'll be drawn to Jesus as our only hope.

Read Romans 3:9-20

1. What does Paul mean when he says that “all are under sin” (v. 9; see also Rom. 6:17)?
2. In verses 10-18, Paul cites several Old Testament passages as evidence that all are under sin. What evidence does he present?
3. What does it mean to say, “There is no fear of God before their eyes” (v. 18)?
4. How would you summarize verse 19?

Steve said:

If you have never put your faith in Christ, this discussion of sin might be troubling to you. You might be feeling the weight of your sin for the first time. Maybe you've tried to ignore your sin or cover your shame and guilt in all sorts of ways. Maybe you've dismissed your sinfulness by saying, "I know I'm not perfect, but I'm not as bad as _____." If you're feeling the weight of your sin, I'd urge/beg you not to ignore it. Don't dismiss the diagnosis that you are enslaved to sin or else you'll miss the best news that you'll ever hear.

5. Do you remember when you first felt the "weight of your sin"? What was that like?

6. As a believer in Jesus who has been forgiven for your sin, how is this passage still useful to contemplate?

Once a month we include a Stewardship Moment in our study guide as an ongoing way to educate and shape our thinking about stewardship issues.

Stewardship Moment

¹⁰ Bring all the tithes into the storehouse so there will be enough food in my Temple. If you do," says the LORD of Heaven's Armies, "I will open the windows of heaven for you. I will pour out a blessing so great you won't have enough room to take it in! Try it! Put me to the test! (Malachi 3:10, NLT)

Have you experienced this Scripture first hand? If so, how?