

## FROM RUIN TO RESTORATION

### Romans 3:9-26

The entire human race, apart from Jesus Christ, is in a completely ruined condition. The opening verse of our text sets forth this very conclusion, “**they are all under sin**”. The verses that follow expose the awful condition of the lost person and catalogs his evil condition.

#### *Romans 3:9-26*

*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;*

*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:*

*There is no fear of God before their eyes.*

*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.*

*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 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:*

*Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation 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.*

**First** The ruined condition of the lost person:

**1.** He is dirty. (verse 10) *"As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:"*

Since he is not righteous, in the eyes of God, he is an unclean person. All the lost are in this condition.

*Isa 1:4-6 Ah sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evildoers, children that are corrupters: they have forsaken the LORD, they have provoked the Holy One of Israel unto anger; they*

*are gone away backward.*

*Why should ye be stricken any more? ye will revolt more and more: the whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint. From the sole of the foot even unto the head there is no soundness in it; but wounds, and bruises, and putrifying sores: they have not been closed, neither bound up, neither mollified with ointment.*

*Isa 64:6 But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.*

The description that is given in these verses describe a person with the disease of leprosy. A leper's skin can rot away with open running sores. But the condition being described is not one of outside skin, but the inside unclean state of the lost person's heart. It is the same type of description that Jesus Christ gave of the religious but very lost Pharisees.

*Mat 23:27-28 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness. Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity.*

**2.** He is darkened. (verse 11) *“There is none that understandeth”*

The lost man is also called “the natural man” in God's word. *1Co 2:14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.*

The things of God's spiritual realm can only be properly understood by a person that has received a spiritual birth from God.

*John 3:3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.*

**3.** He is dislocated. (verse 12) *“They are all gone out of the way”*

*Isa 53:6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.*

*Joh 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*

*God created man to walk in fellowship with him. But when Adam sinned, he chose his own way to live his life.*

One of the descriptions used concerning Christians was “the way”.

*Act 9:2 And desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem.*

*Act 18:25-26 This man was instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in the spirit, he spake and taught diligently the things of the Lord, knowing only the baptism of John.*

*26 And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue: whom when Aquila and Priscilla had heard, they took him unto them, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly.*

**4.** He is depraved (verse 12) *“there is none that doeth good, no, not one”*

This does not mean that a lost person never does any real good in life, but it does mean that he cannot do any good works to earn a right standing with God.

*Eph 2:8-9 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:  
9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.*

*Tit 3:5-6 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us,  
by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;*

*6 Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour;*

Even a saved person cannot effectively serve God by the energy of the flesh.

*Rom 7:18 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present  
with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.*

**5.** He is dangerous. (verses 13-14) *“Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongue have used  
deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips: Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness:”*

This is a description of one that even his speech is poisoned. This is one of the reasons the world is filled with such damaging speech.

**6.** He is destructive. (verses 15-16) *“Their feet are swift to shed blood: Destruction and misery are in  
their ways:”*

All the misery and heartaches we experience in this world is because of sinners. The description in verse 15 is certainly fitting, “their feet are swift to shed blood” Think of all the wars, even just the wars in this age and the lives being lost even at this time.

**7.** He is defeated (verse 17) *“And the way of peace have they not known”*

There is no hope of mankind ushering in peace in our sin plagued world. Real peace will occur only when Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, comes and establishes his kingdom on earth. *Isa 9:6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.*

What a glorious event it was when Jesus Christ was born.

*Luk 2:13-14 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and  
saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.*

**8.** He is defiant (verse 18) *“There is no fear of God before their eyes.”*

This is one of the reasons why the lost human race continues in an evil pathway. They imagine they will never have to give an account for their behavior. But, sadly for them, a day of accounting will come but it will be too late for them to repent.

*Rev 20:12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and  
another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which  
were written in the books, according to their works.*

**9.** He is totally deficient. (verse 23) *“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;”*

To “come short of the glory of God” means the lost person completely comes short of the holiness of God, therefore, he is unable to stand in the presence of God.

**10.** He is doomed.

*Rev 20:13-15 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.*

The lost person has no hope of being right with God in and of himself. He will be cast into the lake of fire, to be forever separated from God. What a bleak picture is painted of the sinner and his sin.

### **UNLESS**

Unless there is hope with God! And, praise God, there is hope with God!

### **BUT NOW**

*Rom 3:21-22 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 Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:*

What a wonderful prospect there is now for the poor lost sinner. God has intervened on his behalf and righteousness can now be his. Hallelujah! Notice this also in verse 22, it is available “unto all and upon all them that believe”.

**SECOND** The restored state of the saved person:

**1.** He is saved by grace alone (verse 24) “*Being justified freely by his grace*”

Salvation comes to the lost sinner only by God's grace, God's favor.

*Eph 2:8-9 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.* This means the sinner has no merit at all with God. But, God, in his loving mercy, has chosen to extend favor to a lost sinner and pay his sin debt on his behalf.

**2.** He is saved by grace alone through faith alone (verse 22) “*Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ*”

The only thing a lost sinner can do is come to God in humble faith through Jesus Christ.

**3.** He is saved by grace alone through faith alone in the atoning sacrifice of Jesus Christ alone (verse 25) “*Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;*”

Jesus Christ's shed blood is God's propitiation. This means that the sacrifice of Jesus Christ for our sins is that which satisfies God's sense of justice for our sins. God is a just God and cannot just overlook our sins. But Jesus died on our behalf and in our place for our sins and God is now propitiated, that is God is now satisfied that our sin debt has been paid in full by Jesus Christ. In fact, God is so satisfied that our sin debt is paid that he perfects us forever through Jesus Christ.

*Heb 10:10-14 By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins: But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God; From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool. For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified. Praise God, what a sacrifice, what a Savior, what forgiveness, what perfection! Amen!*

4. He is redeemed (verse 24) *"Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:"*

Jesus Christ has purchased us unto himself out of the slave market of sin.

*1Co 6:19-20 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.*

5. He is washed clean from his sins (verse 25) *"Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;"*

The "remission of sins" means that the sins of the sinner have been removed.

*Rev 1:5 And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, Praise God, my sins are gone for surely I am that vile one but the pure blood of Jesus Christ has washed me clean. I am no longer dirty. Thank you Lord Jesus.*

6. He is righteous (verse 25) *"Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;"*

The sinner has had his sins placed on Jesus Christ and has had the righteousness of God placed on him. *2Co 5:21 For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.*

7. He is justified before God by God himself (verse 24) *"Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:"*

Exploring Romans, John Phillips, page 68: "Because of man's ruined condition, salvation is based on a remarkable principle. We are to be *"justified freely by his grace"*. Notice the words "justified," "freely" and "grace," for they summarize the principle whereby God meets ruined man in all his need. Justification is here the legal and formal acquittal from guilt by God as Judge, and the pronouncement of the believing sinner as righteous in his sight. The verb is in the present continuous tense and thus indicates a constant process of justification in the succession of those who believe and are justified.

Yes, the believing sinner has been taken to God's court and declared to be without blame before God in Jesus Christ. He is now no longer guilty of sin in God's eyes.

Yes, it is true. A poor lost and ruined sinner can be fully restored to our loving heavenly Father. *Joh 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

If you are unsaved, turn in faith to God and ask him to save you. Ask him right now!

*Rom 10:8-13 But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.*