



**What Sin Has Done to Us Part 1
Why We All Need Jesus!
Romans 3:9-20**

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Last time we were together we discovered that we all need Jesus. You cannot get to heaven by religious means; you can't get to heaven hoping or thinking you aren't as bad as the next guy; you can't get to heaven because you think you are okay; you can't get to heaven on anything you do as religious works or perform as religious works. There is only one way to heaven. Jesus.



John 14:6

“Jesus said to him, **“I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father except through Me.”** (NASB 2020)

Jesus +, in other words legalism, that is not necessary for salvation or even for post salvation.

John 8:34–36

“Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. **So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.**” (ESV)

Ephesians 2:8–9

“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.” (ESV)

So, now that we have made that crystal clear. Here are the reason why we need Jesus. We are all guilty and Paul lays out the charges, fourteen to be exact, against all of us.

Welcome to this section of Romans, where per Dr. McGee, “we have the accusation of “guilty” by God against mankind. Paul is going to conclude this section on sin by bringing mankind up before the Judge of all the earth. And the accusation of “guilty” is made by God against all mankind—both Jew and Gentile, black and white, male and female, rich and poor. It doesn’t make any difference who we are; if we belong to the human race, you and I stand guilty before God. And then Paul is going to take us to God’s clinic. It’s a real spiritual clinic, and the Great Physician is going to look at us. We see that there are fourteen different charges made; six of them before the Judge and the other eight before the Great Physician who says we’re sick. In fact, we’re sick nigh unto death. To tell the truth, we are dead in trespasses and sin. That is our condition.” (McGee 1997, 662)

And I do not disagree with the assessment at all. If you have Jesus, this is why He came and went to the cross for all of us.

Romans 3:9–20

“What then? Are we better than they? Not at all; for we have already charged that **both Jews and Greeks are all under sin**; as it is written: **“THERE IS NO RIGHTEOUS PERSON, NOT EVEN ONE; THERE IS NO ONE WHO UNDERSTANDS, THERE IS NO ONE WHO SEEKS OUT GOD; THEY HAVE ALL TURNED ASIDE, TOGETHER THEY HAVE BECOME CORRUPT; THERE IS NO ONE WHO DOES GOOD, THERE IS NOT EVEN ONE.”** **“THEIR THROAT IS AN OPEN GRAVE, WITH THEIR TONGUES THEY KEEP DECEIVING,”** **“THE VENOM OF ASPS IS UNDER THEIR LIPS”;** **“THEIR MOUTH IS FULL OF CURSING AND BITTERNESS”;** **“THEIR FEET ARE SWIFT TO SHED BLOOD, DESTRUCTION AND MISERY ARE IN THEIR PATHS, AND THEY HAVE NOT KNOWN THE WAY OF PEACE.”** **“THERE IS NO FEAR OF GOD BEFORE THEIR EYES.”** Now we know that whatever the Law says, it speaks to those who are under the Law, so that every mouth may be closed and all the world may become accountable to God; because by the works of the Law none of mankind will be justified in His sight; for through the Law comes knowledge of sin.” (NASB 2020)

We examined the very first charge last time. It is in verse 9.

Charge 1 – We, all of the us, the entire human race without any exception at all, are under sin. A quick review of the charge.

Literally, all of mankind is under sin. And this is a really dark idea based on the word choice of Paul. “The Greek word translated “under” refers to a system that holds dominion over a person. It is a divine



reckoning that is to be considered as true. By divine decree, man was placed in a state under sin. He is in a system in which sin holds dominion over every person. By divine decree, all Jews and Gentiles are now placed into that estate in which human merit is worthless insofar as salvation is concerned. (Arnold n.d.) (Fruchtenbaum 1983, 12)

Before coming to Jesus, we are all under the dominion of Satan. That means those who we know and love, who have yet to trust in Jesus and what He did on the cross for us, work right now, for the other guy and are under his dominion. They are being actively blinded by him and only the Holy Spirit can reveal Him to them. When we share what Jesus did for us with one who does not know the Lord, the Holy Spirit picks it up from there and He is the one who then begins the work of conviction and for those who believe, He then enters into them to seal the deal.

Being under sin, being in the dominion of Satan means that the majority of the world around us today, lives in a place they do not know about and refuse to learn about because their minds are blinded. They live in the domain of darkness.

Colossians 1:13–14

“For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.” (NASB 2020)

I really wish I had overstated the case when I said that the majority of those living on this planet live under the dominion of Satan. But John tells us otherwise.

1 John 5:19

“We know that we are of God, and that the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.” (NASB 2020)

When we come to Jesus Christ, we are shifting allegiances from Satan to Jesus, He is the one who paid the price to purchase us out from the dominion of Satan. Literally, we have been purchased from the slave market of sin. And as followers of Jesus, yes, we are still sinners, but He has changed our destination and, as we just read, has transferred us to the Kingdom of Jesus Christ. We are now His kids and are no longer under the dominion of Satan. We are now part of that force that is busily attacking the gates of hell and rescuing others from the clutches of the evil one.

Romans 3:10–11

“as it is written: “THERE IS NO RIGHTEOUS PERSON, NOT EVEN ONE; THERE IS NO ONE WHO UNDERSTANDS, THERE IS NO ONE WHO SEEKS OUT GOD;” (NASB 2020)

Charge two has two aspects – first, no one is righteous. Paul is restating what David said in Psalm 14:1 here. What does this really mean? What does it mean to be righteous, something none of us can obtain or be on our own since none of us are intrinsically, on our own righteous at all.

To be righteous means we are made right with God. This is very different from being right with your friend or spouse. When we work to make things right with someone else, we usually begin by talking with them and then coming up with some kind of a compromise that we can both live with and make us right with each other. Then we carry forth from there but even with all of that effort, that does not mean we are always in a right standing with them. They can change their mind after all and so can we. But God does not compromise for anyone...ever. He does not change His mind either.

Hebrews 13:8

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever!” (NET 2nd ed.)



God has made an offer of salvation to the world, a method to be made right with Him by becoming justified by Him and that justification is only possible through and because of the work of Jesus Christ on the cross. There is no other way. This issue of righteousness is important to understand as it has hanging on it all "the issues of life and death, of time and eternity...a proper understanding of the righteousness of God and our relationship to it. We have difficulty with this, however, and the biggest difficulty is that our ideas of righteousness are completely different from God's idea of righteousness." Justification, being made right with God, is important. (Boice 1991-, 1157-1158)

We believe that justification is that gracious and judicial act of God, by which He grants full pardon of all guilt and complete release from the penalty of sins committed, and acceptance as righteous, to all who believingly receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour. We may sum up the various aspects of the truth concerning this great doctrine in the following statement: **Justification is that judicial or declarative act of God, by which He pronounces those who believingly accept the propitiatory offering of Christ, as absolved from their sins, released from their penalty, and accepted as righteous before Him.** (Wiley and Culbertson 1946, 276)

Earlier here in Romans, Paul talked about the person who does not have access to the scriptures and instead has only natural revelation. Based on that, we discovered that "the person without the Bible hasn't kept his own standards perfectly, so he deserves the wrath of God. But those of us who have the Bible, who have had even higher moral standards, haven't kept our standards either. This is not a theological abstraction, coming from a metaphysical mood. Moral corruption is the result of individual immoral desires. Paul describes a concrete tragedy of sinful desires, not a human state or definition. This understanding of sin's universality is the truest and greatest "leveler" of humanity. (Schaeffer 1998, 68)

Without Jesus, none of us are righteous. Jesus Christ came to this planet for the sole purpose of going to the cross, taking all our sin onto Himself, and paying the penalty for our sin so we could then be made righteous and be with Him for all eternity. God's plan again is very simple, you and I are sinners, here is salvation and it is only in and through Jesus Christ; "it is My plan and it is the only one that matters, I want to save you because I love you, here it is, take it or leave it, your choice."

Earlier I stated that it is the Holy Spirit's responsibility to reveal this to each person who has heard about what Jesus did for them. Without that, we are indeed clueless of what God has done to provide for our salvation. Natural revelation does not show us that. This brings us to the **second aspect of this second charge; there is no one who understands.**

The full charge, there is no one who is righteous, there is no one who is right with God, and there is no one who understands that. "In other words, there is none who acts on the knowledge that he has. No one is the person he would like to be." (McGee 1997, 663)

Charge three – "There is no one who seeks out God." Really? Recall what we were told earlier.

Romans 1:18–19

"For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of people who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them." (NASB 2020)

But what about seeker friendly churches? Let me show you what the reality really is prior to the Holy Spirit doing any work whatsoever. No one is seeking God at all. Religion and feeling okay, yes. God, not so much.



Psalm 14:2–3

“The LORD looks down from heaven on the children of man, to see if there are any who understand, who seek after God. **They have all turned aside; together they have become corrupt; there is none who does good, not even one.**” (ESV)

So, if there is no one who seeks God, who are the “seekers” that are being enticed to come to a seeker friendly church and how are they being enticed. The honest unvarnished truth is simple, if the Holy Spirit is not already drawing someone to the Lord, the only reason they will come to church is for a funeral, a wedding, to support someone else that is important in their life, to get someone to date them/marry them, or to do something religious and feel better about themselves.

The last days church of Laodicea is more than happy to oblige those who want to feel better about themselves as they will never mention the topic of sin or the need for salvation but instead will blind you with works and manipulate you with tried and proven tactics to raise funds that have been imported from the world of non-profit fundraising. If you ever see someone on a church staff whose major job is “development,” those are code words for fund raising.

Market research will show the potential seeker friendly church what the needs of the target market is. That alone, is an exercise in futility.

People who fit the “exploring Christianity” category are those who do not yet believe in Christ (i.e., the lost and unregenerate). Hence, the study revealed that while the lost were actively participating at XYZ Church and are even being catered to, the “Christ-centered” (i.e., believers) were “stalled” and “dissatisfied.” Apparently, there was a neglect of substantial preaching of the Word, which resulted in starving believers, while the lost were either not coming to Christ, or not leaving the church. Pandering to the lost within the walls of XYZ created a sermonic “ceiling” that limited the exposition of the whole counsel of God’s Word and kept the content at the “milk” level. By prioritizing ministering to the lost, rather than equipping believers, this kind of ministry has inverted the Biblical pyramid for church growth and evangelism. And the results were clearly unacceptable. (Edmondson 2013, 65)

For any who are wondering if we will consider this model, the answer is no. Calvary Chapel will continue to simply teach God’s word chapter by chapter and verse by verse. We will not be pandering to the lost, but we will welcome all who come, saved or lost. Jesus did and He did not compromise the truth. We will not either.

Paul will reveal to us later in Romans 7:18 what our true status is, we are born in rebellion, self-interest, disobedience and the only God we really truly want to serve is ourself.

Romans 7:18

“For I know that good does not dwell in me, that is, in my flesh; for the willing is present in me, but the doing of the good is not.” (NASB 2020)

Everyone needs Jesus. I don’t need to conduct market research for that to become a real reason for a church to exist anywhere on the planet. My brother in Uganda has the same goal as we do; so does my brother in Cairo, or in Kenya, make disciples.

Because no one seeks after God, He instead seeks after us. That began first in the Garden of Eden after the fall. Adam and Eve tried to hide, but God would not let them.



Genesis 3:8–9

“And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and **the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?”**” (ESV)

God does not conceal Himself; we already discussed the general revelation of God in the cosmos that Paul discussed in chapter 1. We also learned in Romans 2 that “in addition to the external revelation in the cosmos, man’s moral conscience relates him internally to the God of revelation.” (Henry 1999, 84)

Our conscience, even when seared as many have done, still betrays us. The one true God demands attention, spiritual submission, moral obedience and desires fellowship with His creation. And then there is what John reveals to us.

John 1:9–13

“This was **the true Light that, coming into the world, enlightens every person. He was in the world, and the world came into being through Him, and yet the world did not know Him.** He came to His own, and His own people did not accept Him. **But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name, who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of a man, but of God.**” (NASB 2020)

By rejecting His revelation to us of Himself, we are made culpable. There is indeed no one, on their own, seeking after God. I agree with Dr. Henry.

Fallen man in his day-to-day life is never completely detached nor isolated from the revelation of God. His frustrating of divine revelation is attested in part by the fact of human guilt, which presupposes revolt against the light of revelation. For this revolt against God’s disclosure he is held responsible and not without guilt (Eph. 4:18) (Henry 1999, 85)

When I was learning about the how to of forensic interviewing techniques, I learned some things about people in general that reveal quickly that when we sin, when we commit crimes, deep inside we know and our bodies betray us.

I won’t go into all of the various tells, but if someone gives you a really loose handshake, will not look you in the eye when you ask a question and then answers question showing the white of the eye on all sides, look out. You might be talking to someone who is saying one thing, but their body is trying hard to communicate truth to you.

Ask the right questions, and all but the most damaged, will spill.

We have talked in the past about God’s general revelation of Himself. Then there is God’s special revelation of Himself to us which He has done through His word. By the way, there is no universal law that requires God to reveal Himself to anyone. He did not have to do this at all. And do not fall into the trap that Bible contains “all” the truth. His love for His creation is behind it. Francis Schaeffer tells us the following.

“It is an important principle to remember, in the contemporary interest in communication and in language study, that the biblical presentation is that though we do not have exhaustive truth, we have from the Bible what I term “true truth.” In this way we know true truth about God, true truth about man, and something truly about nature. Thus on the basis of the Scriptures, while we do not have exhaustive knowledge, we have true and unified knowledge. (Schaeffer, *Escape from Reason* 1982, 218-219)



God's special revelation is His revelation to man through His written word. This was done over a 1600-year period using 40 different "authors" all writing under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. "In Special Revelation, God makes Himself known at specific times, through specific people, and in specific ways." Not in all ways. (Fruchtenbaum, The Messianic Bible Study Collection 1983, 8)

General revelation in the cosmos shows us there is indeed a God, but special revelation shows us what kind of a God He is. Again, the outline is defined for us in Hebrews.

Hebrews 1:1–2

"God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom He also made the world." (NASB 2020)

In responding to the revelation of the living God the choice is either obedience and consummatory blessing on the one hand or disobedience and final punishment on the other. The one God's comprehensive, unified revelation is foundational to the biblical doctrines of divine grace and judgment. (Henry 1999, 71)

To not seek God, even in the face of all His self-revelation, only adds to the charge and associated guilt coming from it. As Paul and David attest to, this is a condition of the sinful heart of mankind, a result of the fall. But this all changes for the one who listens to what the Holy Spirit is saying about Jesus, and as a result becomes a follower of Jesus Christ.

When God saves us, we are born again. He opens our eyes to the truth; He gives us faith and forgiveness and fellowship with Him. We become new creations in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17). In our newness of life, we are given godly desires (Psalm 73:25), a cleansed heart (Hebrews 10:22), and a new mind (1 Corinthians 2:16). (Got Questions Ministries 2014-2021) In the power of the Holy Spirit, we begin to truly seek after God.

This brings us to the fourth charge leveled by Paul against humanity.

Romans 3:12

"THEY HAVE ALL TURNED ASIDE, TOGETHER THEY HAVE BECOME CORRUPT; THERE IS NO ONE WHO DOES GOOD, THERE IS NOT EVEN ONE." (NASB 2020)

Years ago, Dianne and I were spending a few days at a business meeting in San Francisco and when it was time to leave, I got into the rental car and acted like I knew the streets of San Francisco, I didn't. Thinking I was headed towards the airport, I ventured forth, there was no GPS in the car, and I thought maps were for sissies. But Dianne remembered the terrain and streets much better than I did. She told me I was going to wrong way and if I kept going that direction, I would drive into San Francisco Bay. But I knew I was headed the right way and ignored her very accurate advice until I arrived at the Bay. Not the airport, not the freeway, San Francisco Bay. Time to listen and follow the directions from someone who knew them.

This fourth charge tells us we are all headed in the wrong direction. Before Jesus, we are all headed, metaphorically speaking, for San Francisco Bay. The only difference here, is we have had revealed to us the map and directions for the way we should be going and decided to go off on our own path anyway.

Prayer and worship appear to be universal in human societies. Every isolated tribe discovered by missionaries, and the few isolated tribes still in existence, all have some kind of religion that includes a wish to communicate with a higher being. (Instone-Brewer 2020, 165)



We were all created with that in each of us.

Ecclesiastes 3:11

“He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, **he has put eternity into man’s heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end.**” (ESV)

How do we stay on the right path? Without Christ, it isn’t even possible to find the road. Religion does not provide access.

Proverbs 3:5–6

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; **In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.**” (NKJV)

Matthew 7:13–14

“**You can enter God’s Kingdom only through the narrow gate. The highway to hell is broad, and its gate is wide for the many who choose that way. But the gateway to life is very narrow and the road is difficult, and only a few ever find it.**” (NLT)

The band, AC/DC, are theologically correct. There is indeed a highway to hell but contrary to what they attest to in the song, there will be no partying there.

Jesus was incredibly up front about what to expect there. He warned of hell multiple times.

Matthew 13:40–43

““Just as the weeds are sorted out and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the world. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will remove from his Kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. And the angels will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in their Father’s Kingdom. Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand!” (NLT)

Turning aside and following your own path will not get you there. It leads to destruction; it leads to an eternity away from the presence of God and an eternity of aloneness. Jesus again.

Luke 16:22–26

“In time the beggar died and was carried away by the angels to Avraham’s side; the rich man also died and was buried. In Sh’ol, where he was in torment, the rich man looked up and saw Avraham far away with El’azar at his side. He called out, ‘Father Avraham, take pity on me, and send El’azar just to dip the tip of his finger in water to cool my tongue, because I’m in agony in this fire!’ However, Avraham said, ‘Son, remember that when you were alive, you got the good things while he got the bad; but now he gets his consolation here, while you are the one in agony. Yet that isn’t all: between you and us a deep rift has been established, so that those who would like to pass from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.’” (CJB)

Prior to the Great White Throne, the rich man, who was not a believer, followed his own path and wound up in Sheol (Hades). A holding cell for all the unsaved lost to remain in until the Great White Throne. He is in agony, he knows what he has done and why he is there, now he wants others to not come there. He also appears to be alone.

He appears to be talking across a wide chasm to the other side of Sheol which Jesus called Paradise (Luke 23:43). But when Jesus rose from the dead, He emptied that out and all who were in Paradise went to be with Him in heaven.



Ephesians 4:8–10

“This is why it says, “After he went up into the heights, he led captivity captive and he gave gifts to mankind.” Now this phrase, “he went up,” what can it mean if not that he first went down into the lower parts, that is, the earth? The one who went down is himself the one who also went up, far above all of heaven, in order to fill all things.” (CJB)

It was part of God’s plan of redemption for Jesus to spend three days and nights in the heart of the earth (Matt. 12:39, 40). It was there that He demonstrated His total conquest of death. Not only did He not experience corruption Himself, but He released the spirits of the righteous dead to come with Him into His Father’s presence (Acts 2:31). (Beall 1976, 314-315)

Now, those who believe go directly to be with Jesus at death.

Philippians 1:23–24

“I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account.” (ESV)

And when we do go in death, we have an escort.

Remember what we read back in Luke 16:22?

Luke 16:22

“In time **the beggar died and was carried away by the angels** to Avraham’s side; the rich man also died and was buried.” (CJB)

We have been talking about the charge that we tend to follow our own path without Jesus and look for ways to fill that hole in our hearts. When we come to Christ, the Holy Spirit changes that. Jesus loves us so much that when we leave this current physical body we have, He has staff ready to go with us and guarantee our arrival in His presence.

The next charge.

Romans 3:12

“**THEY HAVE ALL TURNED ASIDE, TOGETHER THEY HAVE BECOME CORRUPT; THERE IS NO ONE WHO DOES GOOD, THERE IS NOT EVEN ONE.**” (NASB 2020)

The next charge we would expect in light of what we have discovered so far. Unsaved mankind is corrupt. The word that Paul uses here that is translated corrupt is ἠχρεώθησαν (echreothesan). The word means to “make useless; do what is totally wrong; become depraved, become (morally) worthless, become corrupt. (Friberg, Friberg and Miller 2000, 85)

The natural result of turning aside and going the wrong way is without Jesus, we wind up doing what is totally wrong. By refusing to acknowledge God and His attempts to reveal Himself to us, without Jesus, we become morally bankrupt corrupting ourselves.

“**There is no one who does good.**” **That is the sixth charge** on the indictment of mankind. The way it is said is a triple negative.

Romans 3:12

“**THEY HAVE ALL TURNED ASIDE, TOGETHER THEY HAVE BECOME CORRUPT; THERE IS NO ONE WHO DOES GOOD, THERE IS NOT EVEN ONE.**” (NASB 2020)



No human being on their own is right with God. It is impossible without the Lord doing something to fix the situation. He does do that by the way. We listen to the Holy Spirit and follow Jesus; we are made new creations.

2 Corinthians 5:17

“So then, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; what is old has passed away—look, what is new has come!” (NET 2nd ed.)

Galatians 3:26–29

“For in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God through faith. For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female—for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s descendants, heirs according to the promise.” (NET 2nd ed.)

But without Jesus, we are all dead men and women walking.

Hebrews 9:27

“And just as **people are appointed to die once, and then to face judgment,**” (NET 2nd ed.)

We see a self-centered worldly person who has no interest in God at all and is living for self. At the heart of everyone on this planet is a core heart of sin and for those without Christ, it is that heart which is in control. On top of that, they are all still suffering under the dominion of Satan who is actively blinding them to try and keep them from believing and being saved. I do appreciate how C.S. Lewis put it in the Screwtape Letters as Screwtape provides instructions to another fallen one.

Do remember you are there to fuddle him. From the way some of you young fiends talk, anyone would suppose it was our job to teach! (Lewis 2021, 4)

Are we talking about total depravity? Yes, but when we say that we are talking in terms that if left totally to their own devices that is the end point. The one who does not know Jesus is on a downward spiral of moral deterioration (2 Timothy 3:13), there are levels of depravity, but the ultimate end is only arrived at when the person dies without Christ and then they are locked into an eternity in hell without Christ.

Total depravity means that sin has penetrated and affected the whole of the sinner’s being. (McCune 2009, 63)

When we say that those who are without Christ are corrupt, to the degree of total depravity, we are also saying that without the Holy Spirit interrupting their life and showing the need for Jesus Christ and their acceptance of Christ, they have no means of saving themselves or correcting the condition.

The person who is unsaved is totally depraved and has the total inability to save themselves. Satan lies to them about that and gets them into religion with those lies, but this is what is usually meant by total inability; the unsaved man is unable to make any kind of right response to God’s goodness or to any divine overtures for repentance and faith. (McCune 2009, 65)

Is Paul being overly harsh? Hardly. “Imagine an impartial alien trying to piece together from human history, from the newspapers, from family histories, from the procedures of parliaments and law courts, a picture of human nature. Would it be so very different to this?” (Seccombe 2013, 67)

As I have stated multiple times now, religion, rites, rituals, church membership, none of that saves, none of that will provide the forgiveness of sins that only Jesus Christ provides. Jesus also dealt with religious



leaders who thought they had a corner on the salvation market, and His words are ones we must remember today.

Matthew 15:14 “Leave them! **They are blind guides. If someone who is blind leads another who is blind, both will fall into a pit.**” (NET 2nd ed.)

Yes, there are indeed more charges to come. “Now Paul transfers us over to God’s clinic into the hands of the Great Physician. This is a spiritual clinic, and the Great Physician says that we are spiritually sick.” (McGee 1997, 663)

Romans 3:13

“**THEIR THROAT IS AN OPEN GRAVE, WITH THEIR TONGUES THEY KEEP DECEIVING,**” “**THE VENOM OF ASPS IS UNDER THEIR LIPS;**” (NASB 2020)

So, mankind has arrived at the offices of King Jesus, the Great Physician. When you and I go to see the doctor and we are either exhibiting serious symptoms such as the patient here is, or we just don’t feel good, what is it the doctor asks us to do? Since they can learn a lot by looking at our throat and tongue, it sounds like, open wide and say ahh.

God has just done a quick spiritual intake of the patient, fallen mankind, and the first observation provides the **seventh charge. The observation is not good, the patient has open grave mouth.**

I know there are times when I wake up that I am sure my breath smells like an open grave, but that is not the case we are seeing here. These are dead people walking who already have the odor of death about them.

We live near a large wildlife refuge and there are those times where the wildlife walks across the street into my yard and then kicks the bucket. Most of the time I smell them before I find them. We do have the occasional skunk in the yard, and they are not fun to sniff after the fact, but this smell, the smell of death, makes skunky smells pretty tame. We had a dead porcupine once, he was seriously ripe.

I threw his carcass over the fence into an open area that would provide a dinner venue for those who were sitting on top of my house wanting to know what I was going to do with their lunch.

I really did not want the vultures doing their thing in the yard.

What we are seeing here of the patient is from the Lord’s perspective, without Christ, they smell dead.

2 Corinthians 2:15–16

“**For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing, to one a fragrance from death to death,** to the other a fragrance from life to life. Who is sufficient for these things?” (ESV)

Why is it those who do not know the Lord run from us, not always but I have seen this happen before. Simple, to them, when we talk to them about Jesus, they are reminded of their own mortality and that is not a topic most folks want to talk about. They would say we smell like death to them, but that is not the case since we have, as a present possession, eternal life thanks to what Jesus Christ has achieved for us on the cross. To other believers, it is the aroma of life.

But without Jesus, we are talking about night of the living dead kind of stuff here. Even down to the zombie like blind following of the culture and the never-ending desire for other strange things too.



Not only do they have death stink coming from their throat, **the tongue is coated badly with deception. Charge eight and the second physical outcome for the unbeliever, the inability to shoot straight all of the time.** In fact, when they stick out their tongue, it reveals that under the tongue, they are poisonous. Okay, so stinky breath, a forked tongue and poisonous words that coming flowing from that forked tongue that reflect the death of the one speaking.

We see this peculiar characteristic displayed almost daily by politicians and others in our culture. I would even go so far as to suggest not only poisonous words from the tongue, but from the computer keyboard as well.

Since 2020, we have seen the advent of cancel culture. When those who disagree with you on social media disagree enough, then they try to cancel you and prevent you from ever having a voice or even working again. This is now showing up as open persecution against Christians working in various public facing jobs in some states in our nation. The moment you speak out against certain sinful lifestyles, which the culture affirms as well as Laodicean churches affirm, you must be canceled, in Canada or the UK arrested, in Oregon or Colorado, subject to reeducation, and in California, Oregon and Colorado, sued to the point of extinction. And now, if the disagreement is strong enough, death. Charlie Kirk taught us that.

As followers of Jesus, we all struggle with the poisonous tongue. The Holy Spirit keeps it under control, but when we are in the flesh, it pops up. Venom can do that.

We Christianize it though and as we destroy someone's reputation, we characterize it as a prayer request for them. I have learned, thanks to training in rhetoric and responding to the news media that I received years ago, that you can even ask the right questions or make a snide remark as an effort to destroy someone's reputation.

The pharisees traded in this form of tongue poison. In a very public conversation that Jesus was having with them, out popped reality.

John 8:41b

...“We’re not illegitimate children!” they said to him. “We have only one Father—God!”” (CJB)

They knew about the conditions surrounding the birth of Jesus and tried to make it a thing. Not too successfully since later Jesus would say they are like their daddy, Satan.

And yes, we are not done with this section yet. We will pick back up here next time. But we can already see the final assessment coming, guilty. That is why we all need Jesus. If you don’t know Him, let me introduce you to how to get to know Him.

Romans 3:21–24

“But now God has shown us a way to be made right with him without keeping the requirements of the law, as was promised in the writings of Moses and the prophets long ago. We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are. For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard. Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins.” (NLT)

Romans 10:9–13

“If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved. As the Scriptures tell us, “Anyone who trusts in him will never be disgraced.” Jew and Gentile are the same in this respect. They have the same Lord, who gives



generously to all who call on him. For “Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved.”
(NLT)

ABC's of Salvation

- A. Acknowledge that you are a sinner, tell Him that.
- B. Believe that Jesus died on the cross for our sin and that He rose from the dead.
- C. Confess that Jesus is Lord. Tell someone about what you have done.

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