

Lesson 5 ~ Romans 3:9-31

NIV

Romans 3:9-31

9 What shall we conclude then? Are we any better? Not at all! We have already made the charge that Jews and Gentiles alike are all under sin. **10** As it is written: "There is no one righteous, not even one; **11** there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God. **12** All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one." **13** "Their throats are open graves; their tongues practice deceit." "The poison of vipers is on their lips." **14** "Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness." **15** "Their feet are swift to shed blood; **16** ruin and misery mark their ways, **17** and the way of peace they do not know." **18** "There is no fear of God before their eyes."

19 Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God. **20** Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin.

21 But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. **22** This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, **23** for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, **24** and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. **25** God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished— **26** he did it to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.

27 Where, then, is boasting? It is excluded. On what principle? On that of observing the law? No, but on that of faith. **28** For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from observing the law. **29** Is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles too? Yes, of Gentiles too, **30** since there is only one God, who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through that same faith. **31** Do we, then, uphold the law by this faith? Not at all! Rather, we uphold the law.

NLT

Romans 3:9-31

9 Well then, are we Jews better than others? No, not at all, for we have already shown that all people, whether Jews or Gentiles, are under the power of sin. **10** As the Scriptures say, "No one is good— not even one. **11** No one has real understanding; no one is seeking God.

12 All have turned away from God; all have gone wrong. No one does good, not even one."

13 "Their talk is foul, like the stench from an open grave. Their speech is filled with lies." "The poison of a deadly snake drips from their lips."

14 "Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness."

15 "They are quick to commit murder.

16 Wherever they go, destruction and misery follow them. **17** They do not know what true peace is."

18 "They have no fear of God to restrain them."

19 Obviously, the law applies to those to whom it was given, for its purpose is to keep people from having excuses and to bring the entire world into judgment before God. **20** For no one can ever be made right in God's sight by doing what his law commands. For the more we know God's law, the clearer it becomes that we aren't obeying it.

21 But now God has shown us a different way of being right in his sight—not by obeying the law but by the way promised in the Scriptures long ago. **22** We are made right in God's sight when we trust in Jesus Christ to take away our sins. And we all can be saved in this same way, no matter who we are or what we have done.

23 For all have sinned; all fall short of God's glorious standard. **24** Yet now God in his gracious kindness declares us not guilty. He has done this through Christ Jesus, who has freed us by taking away our sins. **25** For God sent Jesus to take the punishment for our sins and to satisfy God's anger against us. We are made right with God when we believe that Jesus shed his blood, sacrificing his life for us. God was being entirely fair and just when he did not punish those who sinned in former times. **26** And he is entirely fair and just in this present time when he declares sinners to be right in his sight because they believe in Jesus.

27 Can we boast, then, that we have done anything to be accepted by God? No, because our acquittal is not based on our good deeds. It is based on our faith.

28 So we are made right with God through faith and not by obeying the law.

29 After all, God is not the God of the Jews only, is he? Isn't he also the God of the Gentiles? Of course he is. **30** There is only one God, and there is only one way of being accepted by him. He makes people right with himself only by faith, whether they are Jews or Gentiles. **31** Well then, if we emphasize faith, does this mean that we can forget about the law? Of course not! In fact, only when we have faith do we truly fulfill the law.