

ROMANS

*A Daily Devotional
Study Guide*



www.lakeshorefellowshipchurch.org

WEEK 6

Day 1

Study: Romans 3:9-18

Reading: Psalm 14:1-7, Romans 5:6-12

Memory: Matthew 5:12

During the fall, many of our Air BNB guests come to fish for salmon. This keeps our rentals quite busy in the fall time, but a problem that occasionally rises is how to dispose of the fish carcasses. If they put them in the trash, after a day or two, our trash cans start to smell pretty bad. One year, someone scattered over a dozen dead fish throughout our woods, I spent a few weeks tracking these down because the rotting fish could be smelled all around our property. The best way I have found to dispose of these fish is to dig a hole and cover them with dirt. When they are in a “closed” grave, they don’t cause a stink, but when they are left in an “open” grave, their smell is powerful and pollutes the air.

Today, we are going to read how all men are sinners and their sin is a terrible stench before God.

What Does the Bible Say?

If Paul didn’t make it clear enough in the first two chapters, he leaves no room for doubt as he declared that the Jews are no better than the Gentiles. This is because a person’s upbringing can’t help him avoid the fact that all men are sinners. In verses 10-12, Paul quoted Psalm 14:1-3 to prove his point. These verses describe that no matter how much a person tries to do what is right, they are still sinners. Because of our sinful state, we don’t naturally look to God for help. As humans, we want to try to do things on our own, but it is impossible for us to draw close to God by ourselves because of our sin (vs 9-10). Though many people think they are special and think that they have great talents that God can use, they often fail to realize that, without God, they are useless. This is because no one does what is good. Ephesians 2:1 says that without God “we are dead in our trespasses and sins.” (vs 11-12)

In verses 13-18, Paul put a variety of quotes together from the book of Psalms to prove his point about sin. These quotes described how the words that come out of the mouths of men prove they are sinners. No matter how

hard humans may try to say good things, their hearts are evil and in turn, what comes out of their mouths will be evil. Comparing a person's mouth to an open grave was like saying that the words that come out of a person's mouth are like the stench of a decaying body. On top of the stench, the lips of men sting like the bite of a poisonous snake (vs 13-14).

Not only are the mouths of men evil, but their actions are evil as well. They will do what they think is best in order to get ahead or to gain an advantage over others. This is because they don't have a fear of God. Since man does what He thinks is right and does not have to answer to a Creator, their works are continually evil (vs 15-18).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Have you ever reached the point in your life where you thought you were a pretty good person? Do you know of someone who has thought or have you thought that you don't need salvation because you aren't that bad? If these thoughts have crossed your mind, I hope they have been dispelled today. Paul used the Old Testament to make it absolutely clear that all men are sinners and without God they have no hope. You are no better than anyone else, and it is only by the grace of God that you have been delivered from your sin. Your only hope is Jesus Christ. You couldn't live righteously without God and His Word. This is why it is vital for you to spend time with God on a regular basis. Your human nature will naturally perform evil, but as you yield your life to the Holy Spirit each day, you have the ability to live righteously.

Suggestions for Prayer

- * *Thank God for choosing to love you in your sinful state.*
- * *Ask God to help you draw closer to Him.*
- * *Praise God because He is perfect.*

Thought for the day

Day 2

Study: Romans 3:19-23

Reading: Galatians 3:1-29

Memory: Matthew 5:12

Once I had to tear off the old shingles on my house. As I began to rip the shingles off, I found that there were three layers of shingles and old wood shingles underneath those. By the time I was finished, even though it was a small house, there were a few trailer loads of roofing scraps that needed to be picked up off the ground. It wasn't too hard to pick up the scraps because I could see them, but the nails were a different story. The grass hid the nails and it wasn't until I rolled a large magnet over the grass that I realized how many nails there were.

Today, we are going to see how the Law is like that magnet. The magnet didn't remove the nails from my yard, but it helped me find the nails so that I could dispose of them. In the same way, the Law doesn't take away our sin, but it shows us how great our sin is.

What Does the Bible Say?

The common Jewish thinking during New Testament times was that all Jews who tried to obey the Law (The first five books of the Bible that were given to Moses on Mt. Sinai after the Israelites had left Egypt) would be a part of the kingdom of God. It was hard for them to understand how salvation couldn't come by keeping the Law but could only come by faith in Jesus Christ. This is why Paul wanted them to understand that the Law was written to help men see they are sinners. The Law makes men see that they are accountable for their sin before God (vs 19). The Law was not given to men to save them from sin, but to reveal that they are sinners and they need a Savior (vs 20).

Because keeping the Law can't save a person, and no person can fully keep the Law because no man is perfect, we are presented with a great problem. There is nothing that a person can do to get to heaven by themselves. God solved this problem by giving us a righteousness that can't come from man but can only come from Him. This way of righteousness was revealed by the Law and the Prophets as they directed

the attention of all men towards the promised Messiah (Jesus) who would die for the sins of men (vs 21). This righteousness can't be obtained by any work of man, but can only be realized through faith in Jesus Christ. The word faith means that a person places his total dependence upon something. A true belief and faith in Christ involves transferring trust from one's self and the works he can do and placing his trust completely on God (vs 22).

This salvation that God offers is needed by all men because all men have sinned and fallen short of God's perfection. A person's religious upbringing or the works that he can do does nothing to increase his standing before God. God is perfect and man is sinful. Therefore man can't save himself, but he needs the salvation that God alone can give through faith in Him (vs 23)

How Does this Apply to Me?

Do you sometimes think that you aren't that bad of a person or that God will be more merciful on "good people"? There are millions of people in this world who think that they will get to heaven because of their works or their general belief in God. They attach themselves to some religious system and place their trust for eternity in themselves and what they have done. They fail to realize that they have fallen short of God's perfection and that there is nothing they can do to gain a spot in Heaven. You were (or are) in this boat. You can't make it to heaven on your own, and you need a Savior to pay the price for sin that you have been unable to pay. If you haven't placed your trust in Christ alone for salvation, do it today. If you have, you need to realize that God has saved you for a reason. Ask God to help you accomplish His purpose for your life today.

Suggestions for Prayer

- * Thank God for making a way for you to be saved.
- * Ask God to help you live a life of thankfulness to Him.
- * Praise God because He is Holy.

Thought for the day

Day 3

Study: Romans 3:9-11, Psalms 14:1-7, Psalm 53:1-7

Reading: Ephesians 2:1-22

Memory: Matthew 5:12

Romans 3:9-11

Why would some of the Jews think that they were better than the Gentiles (vs 9)?

What does Paul declare that helps us realize that no nationality, race, culture, etc. is better than the other (vs 9)?

If Paul was writing to our culture today, instead of using Jew and Gentile, what groups do you think he would be speaking to about the same issues? Why do you think this?

****Depending on where you live and how you grew up, these groups could be different. From a broad perspective, many people around the world view Americans as "Christian," and many Americans view themselves as "Christians." This often causes those in America to think they are superior to others.*

What does Paul mean when he says "as it is written?" (vs 10)?

****Though this may seem like an over simplistic question, the question is given to draw your attention to the fact that Paul is quoting other Scripture. The New Testament is loaded with quotes from the Old Testament that are often overlooked when reading the New Testament.*

What is so significant about the statement that Paul made as he quoted the Old Testament (vs 10)?

Why was it so significant that Paul was quoting the Old Testament,

especially when speaking to Jews?

How is verse 11 contradictory to what many of the Jews would have thought in that day?

Why is it important for all people, especially those who were born in religious homes, to understand that no one is born righteous (vs 11)?

Psalm 14:1-7

What do fools say (vs 1)?

What state were all men born into (vs 1)?

What does God see when he looks at men (vs 2-3)?

Why do people often fail to realize they were born sinners (vs 4)?

What is the fate of everyone who does not turn to God (vs 5)?

Who is God with (vs 5)?

What was the psalmist longing for (vs 7)?

How is this similar to what you as a believer long for today?

Psalm 53:1-7

Why do you think that this Psalm is repeated in the Scripture?

Personal Application

What can I learn about God from this passage?

How can I apply what I have learned to my everyday life?

Day 4

Study: Romans 3:12-13, Psalm 5:1-12, Psalm 140:1-3

Reading: James 3:1-18

Memory: Matthew 5:12

Romans 12:12-13

Why do you think Paul places such an emphasis on the terms “all” and “no one?” (vs 12)

Why is it significant to understand that “not even one” person does what is right or earns their way to God (vs 13)?

How is this contrary to what many people think today?

Why must a person realize they are sinners and have no way to earn their way to God before they can accept His gift of salvation?

How does Paul describe the throats of all men (vs 13)? Why?

****This is a quote from Psalm 5:9. Graves were closed to keep the stench of the decaying body from traveling into the air around it. If a grave was open, it would reveal the decomposition that was taking place inside. When men open their mouths they reveal the wickedness of their hearts.*

What does he compare the lips of men with (vs 13)?

****This is another quote from a psalm (140:3) which pictures how men have evil hearts that are full of deadly poison that come out as their words.*

Psalm 5

What was David asking God to do (vs 1-3)?

What did David declare about the character of God (vs 4)?

What do verses 5-6 reveal about God's attitude towards sin?
How did David know that he was able to enter the presence of God (vs 7)?

What attitude did David have towards God (vs 7)? How can you have this same attitude in your life?

What did David ask God to do for him (vs 8)?

How is this contradictory to what many people, even true believers, ask God for in today's culture?

****Many people ask God to bless them in what their plans are while David asked God to lead him and direct his life.*

How did David describe those who were around him (vs 9)?

What did David ask God to do towards those who did not accept the love and leading of God (vs 10)?

List some things that those people who sought after God would experience (vs 11)?

What does God do towards those who are righteous (vs 12)?

Psalm 140:1-3

What was David asking for (vs 1)?

What do the hearts of men cause them to do (vs 2)?

What does a person's tongue reveal about his or her heart?

Personal Application

What can I learn about God from this passage?

How can I apply what I have learned to my everyday life?

Day 5

Study: Romans 3:14-18, Isaiah 9:1-13

Reading: Isaiah 9:14-21

Memory: Matthew 5:12

Romans 3:14-18

****In this verses, Paul continued quoting passages from the Old Testament to drive home the point that he was making. The Jews would have known these verses and often would have used them to describe Gentiles, but here Paul is using them to describe both Jew and Gentile. He wanted the Jews to see that their hearts were just as wicked as the hearts of the Gentiles and that the only hope was found in Jesus.*

What comes out of the mouths of men because of their sinful nature (vs 14)?

What do the feet of man naturally do (vs 15)?

What is the result of sin and a life apart from God (vs 16)?

What do people not experience without God (vs 17)?

What does it mean to fear God (vs 8)?

What happens when people don't fear God?

Isaiah 59:1-13

****The book of Isaiah was written during the time the northern tribes of Israel were conquered by the Assyrians (722 B.C.), and a little over 100 years before the Babylonians destroyed Judah (first invasion was in 605 B.C.). The book was meant to predict the fall of Jerusalem because of wickedness, but also the hope of restoration that they would one day experience through the Messiah.*

What did God have the ability to do for Israel (vs 1)?

What had the sins of the Jewish people caused (vs 2)?

What are some of the things the people had done (vs 3)?

What was the result of their wicked hearts (vs 4)?

What do verses 5 & 6 reveal about their actions?

****He compared their actions to one who raised poisonous snakes because the snake would harm the very one who bred it. The people would try to cover up their wicked deeds, but it was like attempting to make clothes out of a spider's web. God could see exactly what was going on and the people would be punished for it.*

What do the feet of evil men do (vs 7)?

****This does not mean that all men who don't choose to follow God will be actual murderers. Murders are a result of selfishness. A person's desire to be on top and protect one's self at all costs leads to a willingness to do what it takes to get what they want.*

What do people not know apart from following God (vs 8)?

What will not be done when evil is rampant (vs 9)?

What does verse 10 compare a life without God to?

What will people trapped in their sin long for (vs 11-12)?

What does this sin lead to (vs 13)?

Personal Application

What can I learn about God from this passage?

How can I apply what I have learned to my everyday life?

Day 6

Study: Romans 3:19-20

Reading: —

Memory: Matthew 5:12

Romans 3:19-20

Why did Paul bring up the writing of the law (vs 19)?

****The Jews were very proud of the fact that they had been given the law through Moses. This pride caused them to think that they were better than those who had not gotten the Law. Paul was wanting them to see that because they had the law, they were just as accountable to it (if not more accountable) than those to whom it had not been given.*

What did Paul declare at the end of verse 20?

How will justification not come (vs 21)?

What does the law bring (vs 21)?

How was this opposite from what many of the Jews had thought?

How can you see this same type of faulty thinking in our "Christian" nation?

Galatians 3:15-29

****In much of his letter to the Galatians, Paul was arguing that salvation came by faith and not the works of the law. The Jews placed a strong emphasis on the law, but Paul was attempting to bring them back to Abraham and the covenant which was made before the law. This covenant was based on faith.*

What do people not do to man-made agreements (vs 15)?

What was Paul trying to argue for (vs 16-17)?

****Just because they were under the law, it did not mean that the covenant with Abraham was to be voided. Even the law itself was a covenant of faith, but the Jews had placed such a great emphasis on outward actions that faith had become non-existent among many of them.*

What two things was Paul saying could not exist together (vs 18)?

****If salvation could be earned by keeping the Law, then it could not be given by God as a result of faith.*

Why did Paul say the law was given (vs 19)?

How long was the law meant to last (vs 19)?

****The law was given to help people see their sin and their need to be delivered from it.*

How is the law not contrary to the promises of God (vs 21)?

What was the law never intended to do (vs 21)?

Why was the law given (vs 22)?

****In Romans 1, Paul described how there was direct revelation (the law) and natural revelation (what was written on men's hearts and could be seen in nature.) These were given not to be revered or worshiped, but to realize that man in and of himself was inept when it came to purpose in life or eternal destiny. They revealed the need for God and were not to be a substitute for God.*

What was the law meant to be (vs 23-24)?

What do verses 25-29 reveal about the law and faith?

Personal Application

What can I learn about God from this passage?

How can I apply what I have learned to my everyday life?

Day 7

Reading: Romans 3:9-20

(Take time to read this passage again, letting the truths you have studied this week sink into your mind. You are encouraged to go online and read it through a few times in different versions.)

www.biblegateway.com

Bible Memory

Matthew 5:1 Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. 2 And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying: 3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 4 "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. 5 "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. 6 "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. 7 "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. 8 "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. 9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. 10 "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11 "Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. 12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.