

BIG QUESTIONS

WHAT WE BELIEVE AND WHY IT MATTERS

Guilty! But Grace . . .

[Doctrine of Sin]

Romans 3:9b-26

Big Idea: All humanity stands guilty before God, but God offers His righteousness through faith in Jesus Christ.

I. **[Romans 3:9b-12] What Is the Issue? Sin**

*"Sin is building your identity on anything but God."
- Soren Kierkegaard*

II. **[Romans 3:13-18] What Part of Our Lives Does Sin Impact? Every Part**

A. Speech [13-14]

B. Actions [15]

C. Path [16-17]

D. Heart [18]

III. **[Romans 3:19-20] Who Are We Accountable To? God**

IV. **[Romans 3:21-24] What Is God's Response? Grace Gift [Righteousness]**

V. **[Romans 3:25-26] Where Can I Find Hope? The Cross of Christ**

[Romans 3:9b-12] . . . both Jews and Greeks, **[Romans 2, 1:18-32]** are under sin, **[Galatians 3:22, Romans 3:19, 3:23, 11:32, Proverbs 20:9]** ¹⁰ as it is written: "None is righteous, no, not one; **[Romans 3:10-12, Psalm 14:1-3, 53:3]** ¹¹ no one understands; no one seeks for God. ¹² All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one."

[Romans 3:13-18] "Their throat is an open grave; **[Psalm 5:9, Jeremiah 5:16]** they use their tongues to deceive. **[mouth is full of curses]** The venom of asps is under their lips. **[Psalm 140:3]** ¹⁴ Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness." **[Psalm 10:7]** ¹⁵ Their feet are swift to shed blood; **[Proverbs 1:16, 16]** in their paths are ruin and misery, ¹⁷ and the way of peace they have not known. **[Isaiah 59:8]** ¹⁸ There is no fear of God before their eyes." **[Psalm 36:1]**

[Romans 3:19-20] Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, **[Psalm 63:11, 107:42, Ezekiel 16:63, Romans 1:20, 2:1]** and the whole world may be held accountable to God. **[Romans 3:9]** ²⁰ For by works of the law no human being will be justified in His sight, **[Galatians 2:16, Psalm 143:2, Acts 13:39]** since through the law comes knowledge of sin. **[Romans 7:7, 4:15, 5:13, 5:20]**

[Romans 3:21-24] But now the righteousness of God **[1:17]** has been manifested apart from the law, **[16:26, 2 Timothy 2:10]** although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it – **[1:2, Acts 10:43, John 5:46]** ²² the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. **[4:5, 2 Timothy 3:15]** For there is no distinction: **[10:12, Galatians 3:28, Colossians 3:11]** ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, **[3:9]** ²⁴ and are justified **[Titus 3:7]** by His grace as a gift, **[4:4, 5:16, Acts 15:11]** through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, . . . **[Ephesians 1:7, Colossians 1:14, Hebrews 9:15, 1 Corinthians 1:30]**

[Romans 3:25-26] . . . whom God put forward **[Ephesians 1:9]** as a propitiation **[1 John 2:2]** by his blood, to be received by faith. **[Ephesians 2:13]** This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance **[2:14]** he had passed over former sins. **[Acts 17:30]** ²⁶ It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

Study Questions and Prayer

- [1] Read Romans 3:9b-12. What is the nature of sin according to this verse? How does sin impact your identity and relationship with God?
- [2] Read Romans 3:13-18. How does sin affect every part of our lives? Do your speech, actions, path, and heart align with God's righteousness?
- [3] Read Romans 3:21-26. What hope does the cross of Christ offer? How does faith in Jesus provide justification and redemption?
- [4] Pray, asking God to help you acknowledge your sin, your need for grace, and to embrace His righteousness in your life.