

The Dark Side of Christmas
2021-12-19

Romans 3:9-21a

9 What then? Are we Jews any better off? No, not at all. For we have already charged that all, both Jews and Greeks, are under sin, 10 as it is written:

*“None is righteous, no, not one;
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.”*

*13 “Their throat is an open grave;
they use their tongues to deceive.”*

“The venom of asps is under their lips.”

“Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness.”

“Their feet are swift to shed blood;

in their paths are ruin and misery and the way of peace they have not known.”

“There is no fear of God before their eyes.”

19 Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God.

20 For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

21a But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law,

Merry Christmas! Some never preach on these verses because they are too negative, harsh, not very loving.

- Perfect for Christmas season because it's the dark side of Christmas.
- Jesus came because we are all unrighteous without the capacity in ourself to change sinful condition.

All born with original sin and by nature are objects of God's wrath. Romans 3:9-10 & 20, 5:12, Psalm 51:5

- *right* (v10)/*justify* (v20) same word: not morally good by nature but morally bad
 - David refers to his sinful nature acquired at conception, not acts of sin.

under sin = objectively all guilty of breaking God's Law and deserve judgment (penalty).

- Before salvation...Not just sin occasionally but enslaved to sin. Romans 6:6, John 8:34

Six Old Testament quotes to support that he did not make up total depravity charge against all. Romans 3:11-12, John 6:44, Isaiah 64:6

- *No one understand* referring to moral/spiritual truth. 1 Corinthians 2:14
- *No one seeks*: none could/would if God did not draw. John 3:19, 20
- *Turned aside* not miss truth because not see it but conscious rejection. Isaiah 53:6
- Become *worthless*.....used of sour milk/rotten fruit.

good = total lack of spiritual good and unable to do spiritual good before God.

- Does not mean as wicked as possible...common grace prevents anarchy.
- or incapable of being kind or doing good on human level but ultimately do to exalt self, not glorify God.

“under sin” also means every part of our being is corrupted/negatively affected by sin.

- Our body, intellect, emotions, desires, motives, heart, speech (reflect heart), actions (flow from heart) Romans 3:11, 13-18, Matthew 15:18, Proverbs 16:6, Luke 1:50
 - sin negatively affects relationships with God and all others.

Our sin nature resists believing we are really “that bad”. Mostly 10 commandments/Golden Rule

- Guilty in spite of bad things we do not do and good things we may be doing.
 - None, no one, all.....includes you or the Bible is lying.

Root of sin and its vile fruit: not fear of God/judgment on our sins.....practical atheism.

- not attracted to God to seek Him nor fearful of God’s holiness/judgment.
 - Not a fear to drive away from God but response to being in His holy presence.
 - respect/awe for God, dread His judgment, honor for His works

Accountable to God: our Creator, holy standard, faithful Judge. Romans 3:19

- *Accountable* legal term only here in New Testament. means guilty and liable for punishment.
 - law reveals God’s standard of absolute right which convicts all of our true guilt before God so we see the need for righteousness not our own. Need rescue!
- Jesus Christ came because we have no capacity in self to change sin condition. Romans 3:20-22a, Matthew 1:23

Absolutely critical to understand law/your guilt/coming judgement or can’t understand how amazing grace/forgiveness.....won’t see need for Gospel.

- God knows your sin to the deepest level yet loves you and made a way to be with Him eternally....He sent Jesus to bear your sin on the cross. Jesus came to die!
 - Humbly believe in Jesus Christ for righteous need to rescue from deserved judgment.