

Romans 3:1-20, Daily Devotions

☐ Monday - Amazing Grace.

Romans 3:10, 12

Here in the third chapter of Romans, the apostle declares, “There is none righteous, not even one” (Rom. 3:10, 12). Theologians talk about the “total” depravity of man, because sin affects the entire population (Rom. 6:23), and because it affects the *total* makeup of a man: his mind, will and emotions. (Gen. 6:5). This is what the great men and women of the Bible believed about themselves. The prophet Isaiah declared, “I am a man of unclean lips” (Isa. 6:5), and “all our righteous deeds are like a filthy rag (Isa. 64:6). Jeremiah lamented, “The heart is more deceitful than all else and is desperately sick; who can understand it?” (Jer. 17:9). The apostle Paul mourned, “Wretched man that I am!” (Rom. 7:24). And how about you? Do you claim to be a Christian? Can you say with all honesty, “Amazing grace how sweet the sound, that saved a *wretch* like me”? Whatever we may claim to believe, we have not fully embraced the Gospel until we understand our own wretchedness. Read 1 Kings 8:46; Ecclesiastes 7:20; Romans 3:23

☐ Tuesday - Who Are You Going to Trust?

Romans 3:11

What is the meaning of life? “The Lord has looked down from heaven upon the sons of men to see if there are any who understand” (Psa. 14:2), and this is His conclusion: “There is no one who understands” (Rom. 3:11). Fallen man has lost his way. “Believe in yourself,” “look within,” “search your heart,” the world encourages him. But the Lord, who knows the heart of man (Psa. 44:21), declares, “Lean not on your own understanding” (Prov. 3:5), “the heart is more deceitful than all else” (Jer. 17:9). And so for you, Christian, your spiritual success or failure each moment of this day boils down to this: Who are you going to trust, the Lord or yourself? Read 1 Cor. 2:14

☐ Wednesday - The Good Shepherd Seeks His Sheep.

Romans 3:11

Each of us is born with a sin nature (Gen. 8:21; Psa. 51:5), and the result is that “there is no one who seeks for God, not even one” (Rom. 3:11). “As the bird with a broken wing is ‘free’ to fly but not able, so the natural man is free to come to God but not able” (Boettner). Almost every animal can find its way home, but a lost sheep is a lost sheep (Keller). Christ is the Good Shepherd (John 10:10) who has come to seek and to save that which was lost (Lk. 19:10, 15:3-6). Before you became a Christian you were dead in sin (Eph. 2:1). Dead men can’t seek anything; they are dead. But now you are alive in Christ -- your broken wing has been fixed! Now, seek first His kingdom and His righteousness (Mt. 6:33). Read Colossians 3:1; Hebrews 11:6

☐ Thursday - Under the Law & Accountable to God.

Romans 3:19

“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” (Rom. 3:19). Since all have sinned (Rom. 3:23), then all stand condemned by the Law (Rom. 6:23). But if you are in Christ, then you are not under Law but under grace (Gal. 5:18). As a born-again child of God you keep the Law, not to stay saved, but as a tangible expression of your love for Him (Jn. 14:15; 1 Jn. 5:3). Read Rom. 6:14-15

☐ Friday - What the Law Can & Cannot Do.

Romans 3:20

Repeatedly, God’s Word declares that the Law cannot save us: “By the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight; for through the Law comes the knowledge of sin” (Rom. 3:20). The Law never saved a single person. That was never its purpose. But “through the Law comes the knowledge of sin”; which means that the Law acts like a mirror into which we may look and see how dirty we have become. But the mirror of the Law cannot clean us up, and so we must turn to Christ and be washed by the Holy Spirit (Titus 3:5). While the Law is God’s *measure* for holiness, the Holy Spirit is the *means* of holiness. Read Galatians 5:16-25