



The Book of Romans

How to be Right with God

(Romans 3:9-18)

DIAGNOSIS...MANKIND!

GUILTY SINNERS!!

ROMANS

THEME, Chapters 1-11: The 5 cycles of Paul's persuasive argument concerning justification.

Cycle 1: The Universal Need For Justification
1:18-3:20.

ROMANS

Cycle 1: The Universal Need For Justification 1:18-3:20.

The Need Presented, 1:18-2:29

- For the Heathen, 1:18-1:32.
- For the Moralist, 2:1-16.
- For the Jew!, 2:17-29.

Hypophora, 3:1-20.

“Hypophora” involves Paul
posing and answering
potential questions
which his readers might have
about what he just presented!

Questions and Answers Concerning The Universal Need of Justification, 3:1-20

1. Then what advantage has the Jew?

Or what is the benefit of circumcision?, 3:1-2

Scripture!!

Questions and Answers Concerning The Universal Need of Justification, 3:1-20

2. Will the unbelief of some nullify the
faithfulness of God? 3;3-4

Not a chance!!

Danger of
following “people”

Questions and Answers Concerning The Universal Need of Justification, 3:1-20

3. If my unrighteousness demonstrates the
righteousness of God...is God unrighteous
when He judges?, 3:5-6

No way!!

Questions and Answers Concerning The Universal Need of Justification, 3:1-20

4. If my lie causes the truth of God to abound to His glory, why am I still being judged as a sinner?

Why not sin so God is glorified? 3:7-8

Their condemnation is just!!

The “end” does not justify “the means.”

PAULS' DIAGNOSIS OF MANKIND!

Who are “we” and “they” in 3:9ff.?

? Jews and Gentiles?

? Believers and unbelievers?

Follow the Pronouns!!

What does it mean to be “under sin”?

Godet said, “*to be under sin*, does not merely signify: to be under the *responsibility* (the guilt) of sins committed, but also to be under the *power* of sin itself, which, like a perpetual fountain constantly reproduces and increases this guilt. [thus, there are two meanings] sin as a *trespass*, and sin as a *power*.””

Charles Hodge says, “To be *under sin* means to be under the power of sin, to be sinners,”

Moo says, “that is, they are helpless captives to its power.”

What does it mean to be “under sin”?

Look what Paul said in Romans 6:17, 20!

They were “**slaves of Sin**”...under its control!

NOTE PAULS' COMMENTS...

- He has already established this principle!
- He is going to establish it again!
- Note the “universality” of what he says!
- He has already quoted from one Old Testament passage: Psalm 51:4
Brilliant!

PAULS' DIAGNOSIS OF MANKIND!

Their Conduct Is Sinful!, 10-12.

- THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE, 10
- THERE IS NONE WHO UNDERSTANDS, 11
- THERE IS NONE WHO SEEKS FOR GOD.
- ALL HAVE TURNED ASIDE, 12
- TOGETHER THEY HAVE BECOME USELESS,
- THERE IS NONE WHO DOES GOOD, THERE IS NOT EVEN ONE!

PAULS' DIAGNOSIS OF MANKIND!

Their Communication Is Corrupt!, 13-14

- THEIR THROAT IS AN OPENED GRAVE, 13
- THEY KEEP DECEIVING WITH THEIR TONGUES,
- THE POISON OF ASPS IS UNDER THEIR LIPS,
- THEIR MOUTH IS FULL OF CURSING AND BITTERNESS, 14.

PAULS' DIAGNOSIS OF MANKIND!

Their Community Is Destructive!, 15-17

- THEIR FEET ARE SWIFT TO SHED BLOOD, 15
- DESTRUCTION AND MISERY ARE IN THEIR PATHS,
16
- THE PATH OF PEACE THEY HAVE NOT KNOWN, 17

PAULS' DIAGNOSIS OF MANKIND!

Their Communion with God Is Absent, 18

- THERE IS NO FEAR OF GOD BEFORE THEIR EYES,
18

TAKE-AWAY POINTS...

1. Understand what people are like!
2. Understand what WE were like!
3. Understand and appreciate the marvelous grace and love of God!



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