

Series: God's Life-Changing Truth – Part 2

Romans 3:9-20 ESV

According to God's Standard, Is Anyone Good Enough?

Sunday, February 22 at 8:00 & 10:45

First Sunday in Lent – 2015

During Lent: Wednesday Services at 11 & 7; Meals at 12 & 6

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: This series is called “God’s Life-Changing Truth.” Last Wednesday, in **part 1**, we focused on ✦ God’s holiness, ✦ our un-holiness, and ✦ God’s work to make us holy in His sight. Today, in **part 2**, we move into the very important letter to the Romans; the book includes ✦ our helplessness to save ourselves, ✦ the necessity of having faith in Jesus, and ✦ how saved people live for Jesus. This is today’s sermon title: According to God’s Standard, Is Anyone Good Enough? **First**, where is God’s standard found? Yes, in the Bible! **Second**, *in light of the Bible*, is anyone good enough? Listen for God’s answer as we move through Romans 3:9-20.

1. **All Are Under Sin:** ⁹ **What then? Are we Jews any better off [than the Greeks]? No, not at all. For we have already charged that all, both Jews and Greeks, are under sin... // So God has told us in His Word what we *should do*—but we have not always done it, and what we *should not do*—but we have not always held back.** Notice the three-section breakdown (a, b, and c).

¹⁰ **as it is written:**

- a. No one is good enough: That is an *all-inclusive* statement. So in regard →to you, →to me, and

→to the most holy person in the world, none of us are good enough to earn a place in heaven. Is that true? Let’s see what the Bible says (in verses 10-18, Paul is quoting from these places in the OT: Ps. 14:1-3; 53:1-3; 5:9; 10:7; Isaiah 59:7-8; Ps. 36:1).

- i. **“None is righteous, no, not one; //** Some synonyms for “none” are “nobody,” “not a soul,” “not a single person.”
 - ii. ¹¹ **no one understands; //** Since everyone is spiritually blind *prior to God making them spiritually alive through Jesus*, everyone – *since the fall and apart from God’s saving work* – are without understanding.
 - iii. **no one seeks for God. //** To the unbeliever *who thinks he is good enough*, he has no reason / desire to seek for God.
 - iv. ¹² **All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.” //** So, *in summary and taking in all people*, no one is good enough to earn a place in heaven!
- b. They sin with their mouths: Now we get into some *specifics* of sin here in part b and in part c.
 - i. ¹³ **“Their throat is an open grave; //** As an open grave points to death, *so the words spoken by the spiritually dead oftentimes give evidence of their deadness.*

- ii. **they use their tongues to deceive.”** // So their words may sound good, *but their intentions are bad.*
 - iii. **“The venom of asps** [*poisonous snakes*] **is under their lips.”** // So more than bad intentions, they seek to verbally destroy other people.
 - iv. ¹⁴ **“Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness.”** // Jesus said: “...the evil *man* out of the evil *treasure [of his heart]* brings forth what is evil; for his mouth speaks from that which fills his heart.” (Luke 6:45 NAS)
- c. They sin with their deeds:
- i. ¹⁵ **“Their feet are swift to shed blood;** // Every man takes action *for his own gain.*
 - ii. ¹⁶ **in their paths are ruin and misery,** // They have made many victims.
 - iii. ¹⁷ **and the way of peace they have not known.”** // Not peace, but violence.
 - iv. ¹⁸ **“There is no fear of God before their eyes.”** // *That is the key problem!* The Bible says: “The fear of the LORD is the **beginning of wisdom;** a good understanding have all those who do *His commandments...*” (Psalm 111:10 NAS)
Dr. Kretzmann made this similar comment: **“A person that has the fear of God in his heart and the picture of God before the eyes of his mind will make every effort to**

lead a life in accordance with His will.” (16)
May that always be true of us!

2. **An Important Purpose of the Law:** To show that no one can be good enough in God’s sight *by trying to keep the law!*
- a. 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.** // Even though some live as if they are not “under the law,” they →are under it, →have broken it, and →are “accountable to God.”
 - b. ²⁰ **For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.** // Since the fall into sin, *all have been unjust from the moment of conception.* The law was **never** given to show us how to save ourselves, *but to show us our sin!*

Conclusion: **Good news:** ²¹ “But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. ²² This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe.” (Rom. 3 NIV) According to God’s Standard, Is Anyone Good Enough? *Definitely not!* So what is **the way** to be right in God’s sight? By receiving God’s gift of righteousness through faith in Jesus! So, having that gift – *by grace (God’s unconditional love) through faith (trust in Jesus as Savior),* let us be thankful!

And all God’s people said: **Amen!**

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Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 7500 State Road, Parma, Ohio 44134, 440-845-2230