

Crossroads Baptist Church
April 30, 2006 10:00
Romans 3: 9-20
Romans #12

“Is Man Really That Bad?”

The court has been in session for some time now and Paul is about to bring his case to a close. In his final arguments, he speaks as the prosecutor and then brings in a physician to speak.

He charges all people, Jew and Gentile, as sinners and all under sin – vs. 9

I. Prosecutor bears witness to the sinfulness of man.

Note the constant repetition of the words “none” and “no not one.” Note a single member of Adam’s ruined race is excepted; the indictment is sweeping, comprehensive and all-inclusive

The prosecutor brings five charges concerning the character of man.

1. There is none righteous

No one is right with God on the basis of their own merit.

Man is totally depraved in that our whole person has been affected and tainted by sin. Everything we touch is tainted by sin.

Man is incapable by nature of doing that which is right in the sight of God.

Man does what Judges 17:6 says, “Every man did that which was right in his own eyes.” Not what was right, not wrong, in his own eyes. Yet doing what was right produced one of the darkest eras in Israel’s history.

2. There is none who understands.

No one can think himself to God. Put away the slide rules, the philosophy books and the new age stones. While man is lifted above the beasts of the field in their ability to think and reason, still due to sin, man is clouded to spiritual realities. He has no natural understanding in the realm of spiritual things.

I Corinthians 2: 14 “The natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God; for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”

Man does not understand how abhorrent his sin is to God. We always believe we are better than we are.

Man does not understand the absolute holiness and purity of God.

Only one way to know spiritual truth and that is for the light of Jesus to be turned on inside them.

Jesus told Simon Peter “Flesh and blood has not revealed this unto you, but my Father in Heaven.”

3. There is none who seeks after God.

Man has never initiated the search for God. But how can this be when pagan lands are filled with temples and worshipers? The Bible says, “The things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to demons, and not to God.” I Cor. 10:20

We have much worship going on in temples, cathedrals and churches; but unless it is in response to the call and sacrifice of God; then as II Cor 4:3-4 says, “its of the god of this world – the devil.”

John 6:44 says, “No man can come to me, except the Father draw him.”

4. There is none profitable

We say, “I’m doing the best I can.” Is simply not true. No man has ever done his best. There has never been a time that man could have done more.

Oh, but I do some good deeds. Aren’t they profitable to me? Its interesting to note the word used here is the word for “turning milk sour.” All your good deeds will eventually turn sour.

5. There is none good.

No one can do good.

II. Physician bears witness to the sinfulness of man. 3:13-20

The physician now bears witness from the physical of the nature of man. Like a good physician, he tells us first to stick out our tongue:

1. Throat

A. The throat is like an open tomb

It's like an open grave with stink of flesh. This is to say that man is rotten on the inside.

Man's speech is not rotten because its speech, but because its coming from a rotten inside.

B. The tongue and lips are like deadly poison

Newell points out that "the fangs of a deadly serpent lie, ordinarily, folded back in its upper jaw; but when it throws up its head to strike, those hollow fangs drop down, and when the serpent bites, the fangs press a sack of deadly poison hidden 'under its lips' at the root, thus injecting the venom into the wound."

You and I are born with similar poison sacks. We strike at each other with poisonous words. We tell lies and do not tell the whole truth.

Gossipers – its as bad as snake poison –With our lips we spray poisonous venom that immediately kills other people's good name and reputation and character

C. The mouth is full of bitterness

Life leaves a bitter taste in our mouth. All the good we do will eventually never be enough and it will leave us bitter.

All of this is due to a wicked heart. What is in the well will come up in the bucket.

Matthew 12: 34 "For out of the abundance of the heart does the mouth speak."

2. The Feet – vs. 15-16

Swift to destruction, distress, desolation
Don't find many trying to relieve misery of others

3. Mind – The emotional state of the patient

Don't know the way of peace. Whether its Iraq, the Middle East, or the streets of our city or even worse, the avenues of our own mind.

Yet, Jesus was born as "the Prince of Peace." At his birth angels proclaimed, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

4. Eyes

There is no fear of God. We live as if there is no God who knows or sees. We live as if God did not exist. What is worse? Atheist? Angnoist? The result is the same.

"The fool has said in his heart there is no God."

5. Heart

You need to come to say, "I'm guilty." Jesus will never be your advocate until you pled guilty to his case as a prosecutor.

Our own conscience tells us that we are guilty

If you are under judgment by the prosecution, you need a good lawyer. Jesus is your answer. I John 2:1 "We have an advocate with the Father through Jesus Christ the righteous."

If you are sick, you need a good physician. Matthew 9:12 Jesus said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick."