

Series: Romans
Title: *Depravity and Its Cure*
Text: Romans 3:9-18
Date: June 7, 2018
Place: SGBC, New Jersey

Our subject: *Depravity and Its Cure.*

In our text, God shows us that all men are totally depraved by nature.

Romans 3: 9: What then? are we better *than they*? No, in no wise: for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin; 10: As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: 11: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. 12: They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one. 13: Their throat *is* an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps *is* under their lips: 14: Whose mouth *is* full of cursing and bitterness: 15: Their feet *are* swift to shed blood: 16: Destruction and misery *are* in their ways: 17: And the way of peace have they not known: 18: There is no fear of God before their eyes.

My goal in this message is to show you how totally ruined we all are as we come into this world. Then we will see that only God can remedy each of these aspects of our depravity. When we declare that God chose a people, Christ redeemed us and the Holy Spirit created within us a new man, we are not saying that God's elect are better than anyone else, by nature—

Romans 3: 9: What then? are we better *than they*? No, in no wise: for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin;

Proposition: As we are born in this world all are under sin—totally depraved, totally sinful—so that all those God saves must be made an entirely new creation, which God, by himself, creates.

Since each of these things is what we all are by nature, nothing of our sin-nature can be used of God. God in Christ must make those he saves an entirely new creation. This work must be entirely the work of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit, apart from anything in us because we are depraved.

Divisions: There are seven things stated here concerning fallen man. We will take them one by one.

CONCERNING RIGHTEOUSNESS

Romans 3: 10: As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:

God says all are, by nature, guilty. Adam was the only man that God created innocent because he was the head of the whole human race. By Adam's sin, we all became guilty before God.

That means God alone can make us righteous. It is only by his Son, Christ Jesus. Just as all those who would be born of Adam were represented by him and made sinners, all who shall be born of Christ were represented and made righteous by Christ.

Romans 5:19: For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.

The righteousness of God is by the faithfulness of Christ and his righteousness is imputed to those who believe on Christ—

Romans 3: 22:...the righteousness of God...is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: 23: For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

We are justified, made righteous, freely by God's grace through Christ redeeming his people from the curse of the law by being made a curse for us.

Romans 3: 24: Being justified freely...by his grace...through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

God set Christ forth to be the propitiation—the one in whom satisfaction is made, the one in whom God will be merciful to us.

Romans 3: 25: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation...through faith in his blood,

Christ declares God's righteousness—how God can be just and justifier.

Romans 3: 25:...to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; 26: To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.

So none are righteous. Only God makes his people righteous, by Christ, through faith in Christ.

CONCERNING OUR UNDERSTANDING

Romans 3: 11: There is none that understandeth,

By nature, no man has any spiritual understanding of the true and living God and of what God requires. No man has spiritual understanding of what he himself is. No man has spiritual understanding of who Christ is and what he has accomplished. No man has any spiritual understanding, period!

Ephesians 4: 18: Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart:

We will not and cannot receive spiritual understanding by nature nor can we receive spiritual understanding in our old nature.

1 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.

Job 28: 20: Whence then cometh wisdom? and where *is* the place of understanding? 21: Seeing it is hid from the eyes of all living, and kept close from the fowls of the air.

If we get spiritual understanding, God alone must give it.

Proverbs 2: 6: For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth *cometh* knowledge and understanding.

Psalms 119: 130: The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.

Understanding and wisdom is in and by Christ Jesus the Son of God. Speaking of believers taught of Christ Jesus, the apostle John said,

1 John 5: 20: And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, *even* in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.

The two men on the road to Emmaus walked with Christ and did not know it. They could not know it. Even when he revealed himself, they could not understand the scriptures he preached to them. "*Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures,*" (Lu 24:45)

Ephesians 1: 17: the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory,...gives unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: 18: The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,

We have no righteousness, no understanding—both are given by God.

CONCERNING OUR SEEKING GOD

Romans 3: 11:...there is none that seeketh after God.

By nature, we will seek things in this world to save but we will not seek God.

Isaiah 31: 1: Woe to them that go down to Egypt for help; and stay on horses, and trust in chariots, because *they are* many; and in horsemen, because they are very strong; but they look not unto the Holy One of Israel, neither seek the LORD!

Isaiah 9: 13: For the people turneth not unto him that smiteth them, neither do they seek the LORD of hosts.

This is due to the pride of our sin-nature. Man in his pride will not seek God and confess he needs another to save him.

Psalms 10:4: The wicked, through the pride of his countenance, will not seek after God: God is not in all his thoughts.

Hosea 7: 10: And the pride of Israel testifieth to his face: and they do not return to the LORD their God, nor seek him for all this.

Therefore, God alone must make us seek him. Christ said,

John 6: 44: No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day. 45: It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me...65: And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father.

Concerning all for whom he died, Christ said,

John 12:32: And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.

Jeremiah 31:3: The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee.

Song of Solomon 1:4: Draw me, we will run after thee: the king hath brought me into his chambers: we will be glad and rejoice in thee, we will remember thy love more than wine: the upright love thee.

CONCERNING GOD'S WAY

Romans 3: 12 They are all gone out of the way,

As soon as God gave the law at Mt. Sinai, men turned from it.

Exodus 32: 8: They have turned aside quickly out of the way which I commanded them: they have made them a molten calf, and have worshipped it, and have sacrificed thereunto, and said, These *be* thy gods, O Israel, which have brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.

It is not God's fault, only man's.

Ecclesiastes 7: 29: Lo, this only have I found, that God hath made man upright; but they have sought out many inventions.

Isaiah 59:8: The way of peace they know not; and there is no judgment in their goings: they have made them crooked paths: whosoever goeth therein shall not know peace.

What is man's way?

Jeremiah 2:13: For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water.

Man has left God's way. The way God teaches, man has left. And made themselves a way which shall end in death. Sinner, do not go in man's way!

Proverbs 16:25 There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.

So then, if any man will be brought into God's way, it will have to be by God, by his grace. God does not turn us the way of the law of Sinai and the works of our hands, but to Christ the Way.

John 14: 6: Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

God's way was to send his Son who bore all the iniquity of all his elect.

Isaiah 53: 6: All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

All the iniquity from all the sinful ways of God's elect, God made Christ to bear then made him a curse to suffer the punishment because of it because justice had to be satisfied for God to be just and save us. The effectual result is God gives us understanding and draws and makes us seek Christ the Way and find him. All those whose sin he bore shall be returned unto Christ.

1 Peter 2:25: For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls. [note the connection between this verse and Is 53: 6]

CONCERNING OUR PROFITABILITY

Romans 3: 12: they are together become unprofitable; [in Ps 14: 3 they word is filthy]

Unprofitable means useless, unserviceable, unfit to serve God in any capacity, entirely unprofitable and useless to God. It is because we are filthy in sin and God is holy. Again, it is man's own fault, God did not create us this way.

Genesis 1:31: And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good.

But after Adam sinned and plunged all men into sin and we came forth sinning,

Genesis 6: 5: And GOD saw that the wickedness of man *was* great in the earth, and *that* every imagination of the thoughts of his heart *was* only evil continually. 6: And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart. 7: And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them.

When you are cleaning out the garage and come across something useless and of no profit to you, you throw it onto the trash heap and burn it. In his parable of the unprofitable servant, Christ said that is what shall become of all men who meet God filthy, useless, unprofitable sinners.

Matthew 5: 30: And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

So if a man will be washed from his filth and made profitable to God, it will be by the grace of God alone. After God saw the wickedness of all men in the earth, and determined to destroy the world, scriptrue says,

Genesis 6: 8: But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.

God alone washes his people from our filth.

1 Corinthians 6: 9: Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, 10: Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. 11: And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.

When he has washed us in regeneration, God makes us profitable to ourselves and to other sinners.

Isaiah 48:17: Thus saith the LORD, thy Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel; I am the LORD thy God which teacheth thee to profit, which leadeth thee by the way that thou shouldest go.

When God has brought us to follow Christ, God gives us the Holy Spirit, making us his witnesses of Christ that we might be profitable to God's lost sheep to teach *others* Christ our Salvation.

1 Corinthians 12:7: But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.

1 Corinthians 10:33...not seeking mine own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved.

Philemon 1: 10: I beseech thee for my son Onesimus, whom I have begotten in my bonds: Which in time past was to thee unprofitable, but now profitable to thee and to me:

2 Timothy 4:11:...Take Mark, and bring him with thee: for he is profitable to me for the ministry.

Yet, because we know every gift we have come from God above, this is the testimony of every true servant of God.

Luke 17:10...when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do.

CONCERNING OUR GOODNESS

Romans 3: 12:...there is none that doeth good, no, not one. 13: Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips: 14: Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness: 15: Their feet are swift to shed blood: 16: Destruction and misery are in their ways:

This all proceeds from a dead, deceitful, poisonous, bitter, murderous, destructive heart. Vain religion preaches morality, constantly urging sinners to put away their sinful deeds and live outwardly good lives. Yet, they do not preach Christ and tell sinners they are incapable of doing good. Will-worship only seeks to stop the outward bodily members from doing sinful things. They do not preach the total depravity of all sinners in heart. They do not preach that salvation is entirely of God.

The Pharisee's are the illustration: they condemned Christ's disciples for not washing their hands before they ate, saying their filthy hands defiled things. Christ said, "No! the issue is the sinful heart!"

Matthew 15: 7: *Ye* hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying, 8: This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with *their* lips; but their heart is far from me. 9: But in vain they do worship me, teaching *for* doctrines the commandments of men. 10: And he called the multitude, and said unto them, Hear, and understand: 11: Not that which goeth into the mouth defileth a man; but that which cometh out of the mouth, this defileth a man. 12: Then came his disciples, and said unto him, Knowest thou that the Pharisees were offended, after they heard this saying? 13: But he answered and said, Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up. 14: Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch. 15: Then answered Peter and said unto him, Declare unto us this parable. 16: And Jesus said, Are ye also yet without understanding? 17: Do not ye yet understand, that whatsoever entereth in at the mouth goeth into the belly, and is cast out into the draught? 18: But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man. 19: For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: 20: These are *the things* which defile a man: but to eat with unwashen hands defileth not a man.

Matthew 12: 33: Either make the tree good, and his fruit good; or else make the tree corrupt, and his fruit corrupt: for the tree is known by *his* fruit. 34: O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh. 35: A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things.

Seeing that there is none good because there is none with a good heart, then none can make themselves have a good heart that they might do good. Only God can create a new holy heart within and give a man new, right motives from within. Christ said,

John 3: 7: Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.

The new birth cannot be of man because there is none good, our hearts are wicked. The new birth in which God gives a new heart must be entirely of God, apart from the sinner's will or works.

John 1: 13: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

Ezekiel 36: 26: A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.

There is none good, therefore, only God can give a new heart.

CONCERNING THE WAY OF PEACE AND OUR FEAR OF GOD

Romans 3: 17: And the way of peace have they not known: 18: There is no fear of God before their eyes.

Christ is the Way of Peace. He alone is the Way of Peace between the sinner and God.

Matthew 7:14: strait is the gate, and narrow is the way which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it. [narrow as Christ himself],

Luke 1: 78:...the dayspring from on high hath visited us, 79: To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Christ is the Way of Peace: the King of Righteousness and the King of Peace. Christ is revealed to a sinner—that Christ alone is the Righteousness of God, that Christ alone has justified his people by his blood, that Christ alone “*was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.*” (Rom 4: 25) Then the sinner finds peace.

Romans 5:1: Therefore being justified, by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

John 14:27: Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

Then he has *the fear of God before his eyes*—he hates the evil of his former self-righteous, self-exalting way.

Proverbs 8:13: The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate.

The fear of the Lord is to depart from the evil of sinful self-salvation: self-righteousness, self-teaching, self-sanctification, self-preservation and rest in Christ alone for all. Peace of Christ's reconciliation and the fear of God are connected. The fear of God comes when God makes us behold mercy and truth meeting in Christ by which all our iniquity is purged.

Proverbs 16:6: By mercy and truth iniquity is purged: and by the fear of the LORD men depart from evil.

This is all the work of the LORD!

Isaiah 57: 19: I create the fruit of the lips; Peace, peace to *him that is far off*, and to *him that is near*, saith the LORD; and I will heal him. 20: But the wicked *are* like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt. 21: *There is no peace*, saith my God, to the wicked.

So we see there are none are righteous—Christ is made our Righteousness; none understand—Christ is made our Wisdom; none seek—God draws us to Christ; all are out of the way—God brings us into Christ the Way; all are unprofitable—Christ makes us useful as his witnesses; none do good—the Holy Spirit gives a new heart and from it Christ constrains us to do good; none know the way of peace nor fear God—God brings us to rest in Christ our Peace and creates in us the fear of God making us hate trusting self-salvation. In other words, “*Salvation is of the Lord!*”

Amen