

## **The Lord Looked Down**

(Rom 3:9-18)

- Paul having conclusively proven all under sin by natural birth, he now seals this fact by the Old Testament scriptures

### I. Rom 3:9 is a summary statement of all he has proven from 1:18 till now

#### A) All under sin- “to be liable to sin’s power, effect and penalty”

1. This is the same as being “under the Law” (subject to its demands)
  - i. Rom 3:19- All guilty “under the law”
  - ii. Rom 6:14-15- Dominion of sin ruled by Law
  - iii. Gal 3:23- “Under the Law” blinds to faith
  - iv. Gal 4:4-5- Christ placed Himself “under the Law” and kept it perfectly
  - v. Gal 5:18- “Under the Law” is outside of Spirit/Christ

### II. “As it is written”

#### A) Paul here strings together a series of Old Testament quotes, not in an arbitrary manner, but in a deliberate cause and effect pattern

1. V.10- Psa 14:1 (Psa 53 same)
2. V.11- Psa 14:2
3. V.12- Psa 14:3
4. V.13a- Psa 5:9
5. V.13b- Psa 140:3
6. V.14- Psa 10:7
7. V.15-16Prov 1:16 / Isa 59:7
8. V.17- Isa 59:8
9. V.18- Psa 36:1

### III.Division of this section:

#### A) Rom 3:10-12- General description of fallen man (man in **sin**)

1. V. 10-11- Actual condition of man in Adam
2. V.11- Consequences of this condition

#### B) Rom 3:13-17- Particular description of fallen man (man’s **sins**)

1. V.13-14- Sinful in his words and thoughts
2. V.15-17- Sinful in his deeds and condition

#### C) Rom 3:18- Explanation and summary of fallen man

### IV.Doctrine

- #### A) Natural man- This section is a description of man’s relationship to God by nature compared to what he was intended by creation, and every description must be kept in that context

1. "The chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever." - Westminster Confession
  - i. Man is a spiritual creature made in the image of God, and not another animal
  - ii. Man was created in a special relationship to God and His desire was to be God and His will and glory alone (1<sup>st</sup> and great commandment)
  - iii. There was no place for "self" in the economy of God, and yet sin has brought man crashing down into a heap of self interest and self promotion
    - a) Thus man, created to glorify God and seek His will, has only the desire for self glory and is self-willed in everything
    - b) Gen 3- As a result of sin, man fled from God
2. There is none as he ought to be, none as God desires
  - i. None are righteous as God
  - ii. None possess that original wisdom given man by God
  - iii. None seeks God as he ought
  - iv. None is profitable for God's use as designed
  - v. None does good, as God sees good
3. We must remember this is God's estimation of man, and not man's
  - i. Example of the earth compared to billiard ball
4. Notice the logical sequence Paul chooses
  - i. Because we are not righteous by nature;
  - ii. Then we do not understand God nor do we understand our selves;
  - iii. Because we do not understand our natural position, we do not seek after God;
  - iv. We instead go the other direction as did Adam;
  - v. God cannot use man in this corrupt/unsanctified condition;
  - vi. Therefore there are none that do the good they were designed to do, none that glorify God by every word and deed
  - vii. Instead, we do just the opposite;
  - viii. We speak evil and corruption, not only concerning God (1<sup>st</sup> commandment);
  - ix. But we also speak evil and do evil to our fellow man (2<sup>nd</sup> commandment);
  - x. And because we are not in the right relationship with God, there is no peace, only misery;
  - xi. And even still, we have no fear of God Who created us, even after all of this!

## V. Exposition

- A) Rom 3:10- Man is not as he ought to be, out of proper relationship to God
  1. Righteous- etymology of this word was "right-wise" (16<sup>th</sup> century)
    - i. Rightwise- "as is ought to be," "conformed to standard"
      - a) "This is MY beloved Son in Whom I am well pleased"
  2. Isa 64:6- "All our righteousnesses are as filthy rags"

- B) Rom 3:11- Man's complete thinking and outlook are warped, we cannot perceive the truth of things by nature, nor comprehend our position
1. Eph 4:18- "Having our understanding darkened" (opposite of "enlightened")
    - i. Man is like the boater enjoying a day on the Niagara River, completely unaware the Falls are just around the bend
    - ii. Ignorance- This lack of understanding is the cause of all our problems
  2. Because of this ignorance, we do not seek after God as we ought to
    - i. Compare the way the great saints after regeneration sought God
      - a) Job 23:3- "Oh that I knew where I might find Thee"
      - b) Psa 42:1- "My soul panteth after Thee"
    - ii. No one can seek God (1<sup>st</sup> commandment) in this way until he is first made righteous by God
      - a) Rom 8:6-7- Carnal mind is enmity against God
    - iii. This "seeking God" is not a mere interest, or a scared call out of fright, neither superstition; it is desire Him and His will over everything else
      - a) No man left to himself has ever sought God
        - 1) Consider Adam hiding in the bushes
      - b) If we can honestly say we are seeking God, then it is only because He first sought us
        - 1) John 6:44- No man comes to Me but My Father draw him
        - 2) 1 John 4:19- We love Him because He first loved us
- C) Rom 3:12- Here we have the general outcome or effect of the previous 2 verses
1. Gone out of the way- Not walking in the path laid out by God
    - i. Isa 53:6- All gone astray
    - ii. Gen 6:12- All corrupted His way
    - iii. All men are on the highway to hell by nature
  2. Unprofitable- This is the word the Greeks used for spoiled/sour milk
    - i. Man's sole purpose was to glorify God and "self" has made that impossible naturally
    - ii. Man in sin CANNOT serve God
      - a) Phil 3:4-9- Paul's "service" to God was all dung
      - b) Isa 1:6- As Israel was "putrifying sores" from head to foot
        - 1) Compare leprosy and the way it renders a man useless
      - c) Job 15:15- The heavens are not clean in God's sight
    - iii. None doeth good- None performs the good that God requires
      - a) Rom 7:15-25- Paul understood this God's definition of "good"
      - b) Matt 19:17- "None good but God"
        - 1) This is not to say a man can't do a "good" thing, it is instead to say that all man's "goodness" is contaminated with "self"
          - (a) Self interest and self glory taint every work at the source

(b) Example of river flowing downhill

- 2) Fallen man cannot do anything solely to the good of God's glory, for even the apostle Paul knew he did not, even 25 years after salvation

D) Rom 3:13- Here begins a description of the specific details concerning man and what comes out of him

1. There is not a single thing that comes from the natural body that doesn't stink
  - i. Mark 7:14-23- "out of the heart of man...."
2. Deceitful tongues- "smooth tongue, alluring, feigned flattering, enticing"
  - i. The truth of this is proven by simply looking at what is put in newspapers, or by advertising
  - ii. Rom 16:18- "fair speeches and good words" in false doctrines
    - a) 2 Tim 3:13- "Deceiving and being deceived"
3. Poison of asps under their lips- perfect zoological description of the sack in a snakes mouth
  - i. Look at the way we attack with words an innocent victim who never saw it coming

E) Rom 3:14- Cursing and bitterness- not simply profanity, although that is true.

1. Tit 3:3- "Hateful and hating one another"
2. Consider how quick natural man is to curse God and blame Him, to find fault with Him
  - i. Job 2:9- "Curse God and die" (Job's wife)
3. James 3:2-11- James' description of the tongue
  - i. "Tongue is the spokesman of the heart"

F) Rom 3:15- This is a description of man's attitude and thinking, not necessarily his outward actions

1. Matt 5:21-22- Murder in the heart

G) Rom 3:16- Sin always destroys and divides, and there is no such thing as a sin where no one was harmed

H) Rom 3:17- The sinner cannot know peace in his unregenerate condition

1. Isa 48:22- "There is no peace unto the wicked"
  - i. Prov 3:17- Compare wisdom- "the way of pleasantness"

I) Rom 3:18- Without the fear of God, how can a man be saved?

1. Psa 110:10- "Fear is the beginning of wisdom"
  - i. Consider how all of this together is a great proof of the doctrine of God's election and regeneration being required in order for a man to truly desire Him and salvation

VI. This section of scripture is the foundation of all true evangelism

A) If you deny this guilt and are offended by this estimation of God concerning you, then you are not a Christian!