

The Book of Romans, Lesson 17, Romans 3:9-12, "Perspectives on Sin"

☞ ²"The LORD has looked down from heaven upon the sons of men to see if there are any who understand, who seek after God. ³They have all turned aside, together they have become corrupt; there is no one who does good, not even one.", **Psalms 14:2-3**. Categorical terminology, "all and everything". This is God's perspective of the human race: we have opinions, but God has perspective. It is only from the right perspective that the truth is revealed.

1. The wrong perspective (anything other than God's) will damage the truth.

- ✓ Perspective? What seems grand and awe-inspiring becomes nothing from the right perspective. The right perspective is in God's Word.

2. From God's perspective, all that seems grand and wonderful becomes nothing.

- ✓ ⁹"What then? Are we better than they?", **Romans 3:9**. "Better than they are?" depends on your perspective, from a human perspective, we may be able to say that we are or someone else is better or worse. Are we better than mass murderers like Jeffrey Dahmer, Adolf Hitler, or Saddam Hussein? It depends on whose perspective you are consulting. From God's perspective: "all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God," and therefore "the wages of sin is death." God's perspective is from the angle of perfection, and from that angle there isn't much difference between humans.

3. From the correct perspective, we are all under sin.

- ✓ Even with that information, our perspective assumes it is like being under a blanket that can be thrown off with some effort. From God's perspective, it's not a blanket of sin but a mountain of sin that we are under. We are under a mountain of sin. We are dominated and controlled by it with no way out. It does not matter what our perspective is on this issue; what matters is God's perspective. ¹⁰"There is none righteous, not even one;" **Romans 3:10**. "Righteous" equals right; but we are not right because of sin. In other words, we are all wrong or crooked, like a bent stick, we are bent in an infinite number of ways.
- ✓ ¹¹"There is none who understands, there is none who seeks for God;" **Romans 3:11**. We don't understand the most important thing that we were made for, and we need God at all times and in all ways for our existence. This lack of understanding is demonstrated in our lack of seeking God. When Adam and Eve sinned, they didn't go looking for God, they hid from Him. This is what sin does to us; it takes away our understanding. One of the first questions in the Bible is "Where are you?"
- ✓ ¹²"All have turned aside, together they have become useless; there is none who does good, there is not even one." **Romans 3:12**, useless, unprofitable, and worthless. The Bible does not support the doctrine of Self-Esteem, it teaches the doctrine of total depravity. We have to be able to accept God's verdict and His perspective that there is nothing good in us in order to be able to receive His salvation. How can we accept God's help without God's perspective? Total depravity means we are worse than the animals. When we want to explain bad behavior we say, "they were acting like animals". That is an insult to the animals! Animals aren't sinners, **Isaiah 1:2-3**.

4. Perspective shows us how off we really are.

- ✓ **From our own perspective, we have good within us, it just needs polishing. From the perspective of the truth, everything in us and about us is worthless and must be done away with. The difference between our perspective and God's is literally life and death, light and darkness.**
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