

The Book of Romans, Lesson 18, Romans 3:13-19, "God's Mirror"

↳ Last time, we looked at God's perspective on sin. We have opinions, but God has perspective, and His perspective is reality; everything and anything that differs is a mirage, a fairytale, and an illusion. Here is His perspective on what sin has done to us: **Romans 3:10-17.** ¹⁸ "There is no fear of God before their eyes." **Romans 3:18.** Sin has left us so foolish that we do not even have the sense to fear God any longer, it is the downward progression of perverted thinking: **Romans 1:21-22; 28.** This perverted thinking has left us more and more stupid, so that now we no longer have a fear of God; the most stupid place that we could possibly be. Our senses are so dulled by sin that we cannot see how close to the edge of this we really are and how dangerous our predicament really is. The Law shuts the proud mouth that boasts of man's greatness.

1. God has graciously provided a tool to help open our eyes so we can see the truth; Romans 3:19.

- ✓ What color are sheep? If you were drawing one, what color would you make it? White? Are sheep really white? They are until snow falls, and then we see their true color: dingy yellow. That's the human race; from our perspective, we are white compared to others who seem to us to have a darker hue because of their behavior, but when the snow falls in the form of God's Law, we start looking very dingy. The Law was given as a gracious act of God to let us know how bad off we really are. The result of the Law is that we realize we are accountable to God, which leads us to having our proud mouths shut. The proud mouth will say, "I'm fine, I don't need a Savior. God wouldn't throw a wonderful person like me into Hell."

2. The Law is a mirror telling us how we really look to God; Romans 3:20.

- ✓ Through the Law, we see our filthiness; we see who we really are, as opposed to who we think we are. What is a mirror for? It helps us see the truth about ourselves that we couldn't otherwise know. We think our hair is right, our makeup is on, and our clothes look fine, but the mirror will tell us the ultimate truth. We think we are fine, living good, approved by God, but the Mirror of His Law will tell us the ultimate truth. When we look in a mirror and see dirt on our faces, what do we do next? Do we use the mirror to clean our face? The mirror just reveals what's wrong, but it has no power to fix it. When we look in the Mirror of God's Law and see that we're dirty, then what do we do? We certainly can't use the Law to clean up our lives; it tells us where we are wrong, but it has no power to make us right. A mirror sends us to the water to wash, the mirror of God's Word sends us to the only One who can wash us clean.

3. God's Mirror tells us we aren't righteous, and that righteousness is the only thing that God will accept.

- ✓ God is righteous, He demands righteousness, and provides righteousness. God provides righteousness to everyone who places their faith in Jesus, His Son; **Romans 3:21-24.** Most religions have no problem with God being righteous, but most fall off the track when it comes to the issue of Him demanding righteousness. Most of us refuse to think that we are lost because of our sin, or we think that there is a way to undo what we have done by doing more good things than bad things. But we cannot undo what has been done; sin is an eternal crime because we have broken the eternal laws of the Eternal One, and eternal punishment is fitting because it is eternal in nature. God knows what His Mirror shows; God has always known that we wouldn't be able to save ourselves. The mirror can only show us what's wrong, but it has no power to make us right.

4. God's Mirror demands our death; Romans 3:23; Romans 6:23.

- ✓ Death is the penalty that must be paid; someone will pay for our sins, and we get the privilege to decide who that will be.

By God's grace, Jesus can be our innocent substitute; He died to take our place so that we would not have to pay for our own sins. We have to trust Him: Romans 3:22. It is a gift, and like all gifts, the only part we play in the process is to say, "I accept". What we could not produce, God provided. What we could not do, God did for us.
