

Closing the gap between vision and current reality.





URGEN

Romans

Rom. 3:9-20 What shall we conclude then? Are we any better? Not at all! We have already made the charge that Jews and Gentiles alike are all under sin. As it is written: "There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one." "Their throats are open graves; their tongues practice deceit." "The poison of vipers is on their lips." "Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness." "Their feet are swift to shed blood; ruin and misery mark their ways, and the way of peace they do not know." "There is no fear of God before their eyes." Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God. Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin.

LIBERTY

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"But now a righteousness from God, apart from the law, has been made known."

Gal. 3:22 "But the Scripture declares that the whole world is a prisoner of sin (lit: held prisoner under sin), so that what was promised, being given through faith in Jesus Christ, might be given to those who believe.

The Problem Dictates the Solution

1. "For it is not those who hear the law who are righteous in God's sight, but it is those who obey the law who will be declared righteous." (2:13)

2. "What shall we conclude then? Are we any better? Not at all! We have already made the charge that Jews and Gentiles alike are all under sin." (3:9)

3. "Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin." (3:20)

Eph. 2:8-10 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God — not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do

The three movements of the gospel:

Justification: Being declared "not guilty" by faith through grace: (point in time)

Sanctification: Becoming like Jesus over a lifetime by the collaboration of our choices and the Spirit's power: (life long process)

Glorification: The final, completed condition of the believer when this life is over: (point "out" of time)

Rom. 6:16 Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone to obey him as slaves, you are slaves to the one whom you obey — whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness?

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Words Reveal Hearts

James 3:2-11 We all stumble in many ways. If anyone is never at fault in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to keep his whole body in check. When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go. Likewise the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole person, sets the whole course of his life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell. All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and creatures of the sea are being tamed and have been tamed by man, but no man can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in God's likeness. Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers, this should not be. Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring?

Luke 6:45 The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For out of the overflow of his heart his mouth speaks.

The believer still sins...more than they want...their "wanter" is being transformed

We are growing in our appetite for *Liberty*

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery. Galatians 5:1