



No One Is Righteous

⁹What then? Are we Jews any better off? No, not at all. For we have already charged that all, both Jews and Greeks, are under sin, ¹⁰as it is written:

⁹“None is righteous, no, not one;

¹¹no one understands;

no one seeks for God.

¹²All have turned aside; together they have become worthless;

no one does good,

not even one.” (Psalm 14:1–3 and Psalm 53:1–3)

¹³“Their throat is an open grave;

they use their tongues to deceive.” (Psalm 5:9)

“The venom of asps is under their lips.” (Psalm 140:3)

¹⁴“Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness.” (Psalm 10:7)

¹⁵“Their feet are swift to shed blood;

¹⁶in their paths are ruin and misery,

¹⁷and the way of peace they have not known.” (Isaiah 59:7–8)

¹⁸“There is no fear of God before their eyes.” (Psalm 36:1)

¹⁹Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

Verse 9

The postulate: We are either under sin (the law) or under grace. The Bible doesn't ask the condition of man. We already know every man is born under sin. We are in that condition until we are *born again* (John 3:3). We belong to the Kingdom of God or to the world and its ruler (John 14:30). Where is your citizenship?

The Jews were tragically unable to understand their own Scriptures (2 Cor. 3:12-4:6; John 5:39-40).

Verses 10-18

These verses represent the universality of sin with no exception. This is necessary for evangelism. Man must understand his sin nature and his need for salvation which comes only from God through Christ. Why did God have to send His only Son to be crucified? These verses show us our appalling nature and thus our need for forgiveness through the Savior. Our understanding of the significance of this salvation is demonstrated in our actions (Luke 7:36-50).

Paul could have chosen other verses, but he chose these. Why? How are they organized?

- Verses 10-12 – General description of man in his sin
 - Actual state of man in sin
 - General result of man in that state
- Verses 13-17 – Particular sins men are guilty of due to their sinful state
- Verse 18 – He gives us the cause of it all



What does it mean to be righteous? It doesn't mean just good. It means you are blameless with regard to God and to other men (Matthew 22:37-40; Romans 1:18; Ex. 20:3-17).

Some will say a man is good because he never deceives others, he is beneficent, philanthropic, and kind. However, righteousness means living a life in *perfect conformity to law of God*.

The Apostle says that since the Fall of man, there has never been a righteous man. The best of men has failed in his relationship to man or God or both. Not one! Not Enoch. Not Job. Not Abraham.

Your particular sins are irrelevant. You are a sinner just like everybody else, and you need the same Savior. There is nothing more marvelous about one person being saved than another.

We place emphasis on testimonies to satisfy our carnal desires. In doing so we pervert the gospel. Who might be more receptive to the gospel? The drunkard or the man who has never had a drink?