



No One Is Righteous

¹⁰as it is written:

“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)

No one understands. Why?

- As a result of sin, man has an absence of wisdom (Eph 4:18)
- The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom (Ps. 111:10; Prov. 9:10)
- They lack an apprehension of spiritual truth and of divine things
- A man may have understanding in politics, business, art, or science, but no man since the Fall has had spiritual understanding. He is dead in sins and trespasses (Eph. 2:1). Spiritual things are irrelevant.

As a result of his lack of apprehension for who God is, man has no understanding of himself, his nature and his spiritual character. He is content to regard himself as an animal and he boasts about it. How?

Likewise, man has no understanding of sin, his own sinful nature, his precarious position, or the wrath of God.

He has no understanding of happiness or joy. He fancies himself an expert on happiness. Why? What is his opinion of the real way to have joy?

He will not contemplate his eternal destiny. Why?

No one seeks for God. Why?

Again, this is universal. There is no individual who seeks after God.

Notice the order. No one is righteous because no one understands because no one seeks after God.



What does it mean to seek Him? It means a desire...

- to know God
- to enjoy God
- to worship God and to seek Him in prayer (Job 23:3; Psalm 42:1)
- to know the will of God in obedience

The natural man, under sin, does not seek God like this (Rom. 8:7).

How about the person in this world who is not a Christian, who never goes to a place of worship, but says his prayers? Is a mechanical repetition of prayers sufficient? (Mt. 7:7) Seeking is far greater! It means you are trying to come into His presence to find God.

To seek God means to desire Him above all else, to seek His glory and to promote His glory. Is God the center of your thinking and the supreme object in your life?

Paul is saying here that no man by nature and left to himself has ever sought God.

Do you know someone who is a “good” person, who is philanthropic, says his prayers, has never committed any flagrant sins, and does a lot of good things, like the Pharisee who lists his excellencies before God? (Luke 18:9-14)

He is not seeking God and therefore does not understand and is not righteous.

Man by nature is a God hater. If you find a man who does seek after God, why is that? (1 John 4:19)