



## Accepting the Bad News to Embrace the Good

Sunday, March 7/21

Text: Romans 3:1-20

### Psalm 51:4 (see Rom 3:4)

<sup>4</sup> Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment.

### Galatians 2:16

<sup>16</sup> yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified.

### Romans 7:16-17

16 Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good.

17 So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.

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## The Bad News: We Are Going to be Judged (3:1-8; c.f. 2 Cor 5:10; Rev 20:11-15)

### Four Objections to God's Judgment

1. Racial Advantage (3:1-2; c.f. 9:4-5, 8; 15:8-9; Deut 7:6-8)
2. Divine Faithfulness (3:3-4; c.f. Ps 89:33-37; 2 Tim 2:13)
3. Confused Righteousness (3:5-6)
4. Twisted Logic (3:7-8)

## More Bad News: We Are All Guilty (3:9-18)

*Supported by a string of 6 OT passages:*

**Ps 14:1-7** (see Rom 3:10b-12); **Ps 5:5-10** (see 3:13a); **Ps 140:1-4** (see 3:13b);

**Ps 10:4-7** (see 3:14); **Isa 59:4-10** (see 3:15-17); **Ps 36:1-4** (see 3:18)

## Worse News: We Can't Save Ourselves (3:19-20)



## Study and Discussion Questions

### *Accepting the Bad News to Embrace the Good*

#### Open It

1. \*In what ways are all people the same?
2. How would baby-sitting a two-year-old for a week influence your opinion about the goodness or badness of humans in general?

#### Explore It

4. \*How are Jews and Gentiles alike? ([3:9](#))
5. Who is righteous? ([3:10](#))
6. What is our natural tendency toward God? ([3:11](#))
8. \*What is human nature? ([3:12](#))
9. How do our conversations and speech reflect our sinful nature? ([3:13-14](#))
- 10.\*What are the characteristics of people who stand condemned before God? ([3:13-18](#))
- 12.What is the purpose of having God's law? ([3:19-20](#))

#### Get It

- 15.How can Christianity be described as "good news" when it teaches that all people are guilty before God?
- 16.\*What reasons would you give for describing people as either basically good or basically evil?
- 17.\*How would you explain this passage to a person who believes that he or she is good and not guilty of any serious sins?
- 19.How can we sin with our mouth?
- 21.What misinformation about God's judgment have you believed at one point in your life?

#### Apply It

- 22.\*What "laws" do you need to put aside in your life in favor of the true righteousness God offers?
- 23.With what believer could you meet and spend time in prayer and confession? When?