

## **The Verdict:**

### **All Are Guilty**

Romans 3:9-20

Read Romans 3:9-30

1. Who is the "we" in Paul's rhetorical question in verse 9? Who are "they?"
  
2. In verse 9, Paul says that everyone is "under sin." What does this mean? What specific point is Paul trying to make? Would Paul have been making the same point if he would have said, "all are sinners," or "everyone has sinned?" (See Romans 6:17-22 and 1 John 5:19).
  
3. Praise the Lord that believers have been liberated from sin's power. However, we must never forget that we too were under sin's bondage before God freed us. But even now, do we have any reason to exalt ourselves over anyone else? Why or why not? What should we do to remind ourselves of our true moral bankruptcy?

4. In verses 10-18, Paul quotes from 7 different Old Testament passages to prove that all men are under sin. He skillfully pieces these passages together to form a beautiful mosaic detailing the ugliness of man's condition. Why is it significant that he was quoting the Old Testament?
  
5. How many righteous people have ever lived?
  
6. How many have ever understood God's truth and responded to it?
  
7. Out of all the people in the world, including yourself, how many have turned away from doing what God wants them to do in order to do what they wanted to do?
  
8. How many people have been useful to God in that they did what God created them to do?
  
9. Is there anyone who does good?
  
10. People often blame sins such as these on one's upbringing or their exposure to society's harmful influences. Read Mark 7:20-23. What is Jesus' response to the argument that our surroundings cause us to sin? Why do people sin?

11. Notice the progression of evil speech in verses 13-14. It comes out of the throat, onto the tongue, and then escapes the lips. According to Matthew 12:34-36 where do evil words originate? If one's speech is to change, what must happen?
  
12. What metaphor is used to describe the throat of man?
  
13. In verse 13, the Lord says that the tongue of man is as deadly as a venomous snake. Read James 3:1-12. List some more word pictures that are used to describe the destructive elements of the tongue. What are some ways our tongues may be destructive? What is your mouth and tongue like?
  
14. Probably the most scathing indictment is found in verse 18. What does the fact that there is no fear of God before their eyes show about them? What does it mean to fear the Lord?

15. Is it possible to be freed from sin and still serve it? What kind of life can this person expect to have? If this is you, what does God command you to do? (See chapter 6).
16. From verse 19, every person has been exposed to God's truth for what two reasons?
17. Can anyone ever be saved by keeping the law?
18. To be prepared for the gospel message, people must be convinced that they are sinners and in need of a Savior. It is the law of condemnation which drives men to Christ in mercy. How can you use Paul's model in your own witnessing? What are some of the truths and the verses that you will first explain to them?

Suggested Memory Verses:

*"What then? Are we better than they? Not at all; for we have already charged that both Jews and Greeks are all under sin" (Romans 3:9).*

*"As it is written, There is none righteous, not even one; There is none who understands, there is none who seeks for God; All have turned aside, together they have become useless; There is none who does good, There is not even one" (Romans 3:10-12).*

*"Now we know that whatever the Law says, it speaks to those who are under the Law, so that every mouth may be closed and all the world may become accountable to God" (Romans 3:19).*

*"Because by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight; for through the Law comes the knowledge of sin" (Romans 3:20).*