

ROMANS A WHOLE NEW WORLD

No One Is Righteous

9 What shall we conclude then? Do we have any advantage? Not at all! For we have already made the charge that Jews and Gentiles alike are all under the power of sin. 10 As it is written:

“There is no one righteous, not even one;
11 there is no one who understands;
there is no one who seeks God.
12 All have turned away,
they have together become worthless;
there is no one who does good,
not even one.”
13 “Their throats are open graves;
their tongues practice deceit.”
“The poison of vipers is on their lips.”
14 “Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness.”
15 “Their feet are swift to shed blood;
16 ruin and misery mark their ways,
17 and the way of peace they do not know.”
18 “There is no fear of God before their eyes.”

19 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. 20 Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God’s sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin.

Righteousness Through Faith

21 But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. 22 This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. 25 God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished— 26 he did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.

27 Where, then, is boasting? It is excluded. Because of what law? The law that requires works? No, because of the law that requires faith. 28 For we maintain that a person is justified by faith apart from the works of the law. 29 Or is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles too? Yes, of Gentiles too, 30 since there is only one God, who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through that same faith. 31 Do we, then, nullify the law by this faith? Not at all! Rather, we uphold the law. Romans 3:9-31

Apostle Paul completes the initial demolition of human righteousness by asserting in no uncertain terms that all people fall miserably short of the glory of God. And then comes the blessed “But” in vs 21! At this point the primary focus is no longer our pathetic track record as a human race and each of us as individuals who fail the righteous standards of God in so many ways. For then, BAM!, it all starts to change in vs 21 with the door that begins to open to the unveiling of the righteousness of God that is received by faith through the blood of the sacrificed Lamb of God, Jesus Christ. Yes we have one way to get right with God: faith in Jesus Christ. And His grace changes everything! When you begin to understand grace, **really understand grace**, you enter a whole new world of freedom and power and love of God known through the Son that was never possible before.

1. Give some examples of how we all have this innate tendency to do evil and fail to meet the perfect standards of the holiness of God.
2. When did you begin to understand the grace of God in your life? How so?
3. In relating to God today, are you more conscious of your sin or His grace? Why?
4. Paul tells Timothy to “be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus”. (II Tim. 2:1) Why would he say this? How do we all need to spiritually “work out” in this regard?