

Are you ready to listen?

Romans 3:9-20 No One Is Righteous

*What 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,<sup>10</sup> as it is written: "None is righteous, no, not one;<sup>11</sup> no one understands; no one seeks for God.<sup>12</sup> All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one."<sup>13</sup> "Their throat is an open grave; they use their tongues to deceive." "The venom of asps is under their lips."<sup>14</sup> "Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness."<sup>15</sup> "Their feet are swift to shed blood;<sup>16</sup> in their paths are ruin and misery,<sup>17</sup> and the way of peace they have not known."<sup>18</sup> "There is no fear of God before their eyes."<sup>19</sup> Now 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.<sup>20</sup> For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.*

Steps to listening to God

- Ask good questions – 3:9 *What 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,*
  - God's Word helps us see our desperate need for Him and how deep His love is for us.
  
- Lean into the heavy stuff – 3:10-18
  - Our condition – 3:10-12 *as it is written: "None is righteous, no, not one;<sup>11</sup> no one understands; no one seeks for God.<sup>12</sup> All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one."*
  
  - Our speech – 3:13-14 *"Their throat is an open grave; they use their tongues to deceive." "The venom of asps is under their lips."<sup>14</sup> "Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness."*

- Our actions – 3:15-17 *“Their feet are swift to shed blood; <sup>16</sup> in their paths are ruin and misery, <sup>17</sup> and the way of peace they have not known.”*
- Our outlook – 3:18 *“There is no fear of God before their eyes.”*
- Listening can make all the difference – 3:19-20
  - What about the Law? God reveals His Law in Scripture and in our conscience:
    - So that our self-justification will stop: The Law speaks so that we’ll stop talking and start listening – 3:19a *Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped,*
    - So that we’ll realize we’re accountable to God – 3:19b *and the whole world may be held accountable to God.*
  - The Law cannot save but can show us our need to be saved – 3:20 *For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.*

### Application

- Are you a listener/learner or just a talker?
  - Put the phone down.
  - Ask clarifying questions.
  - Never underestimate the power of the question: “What are your thoughts?”