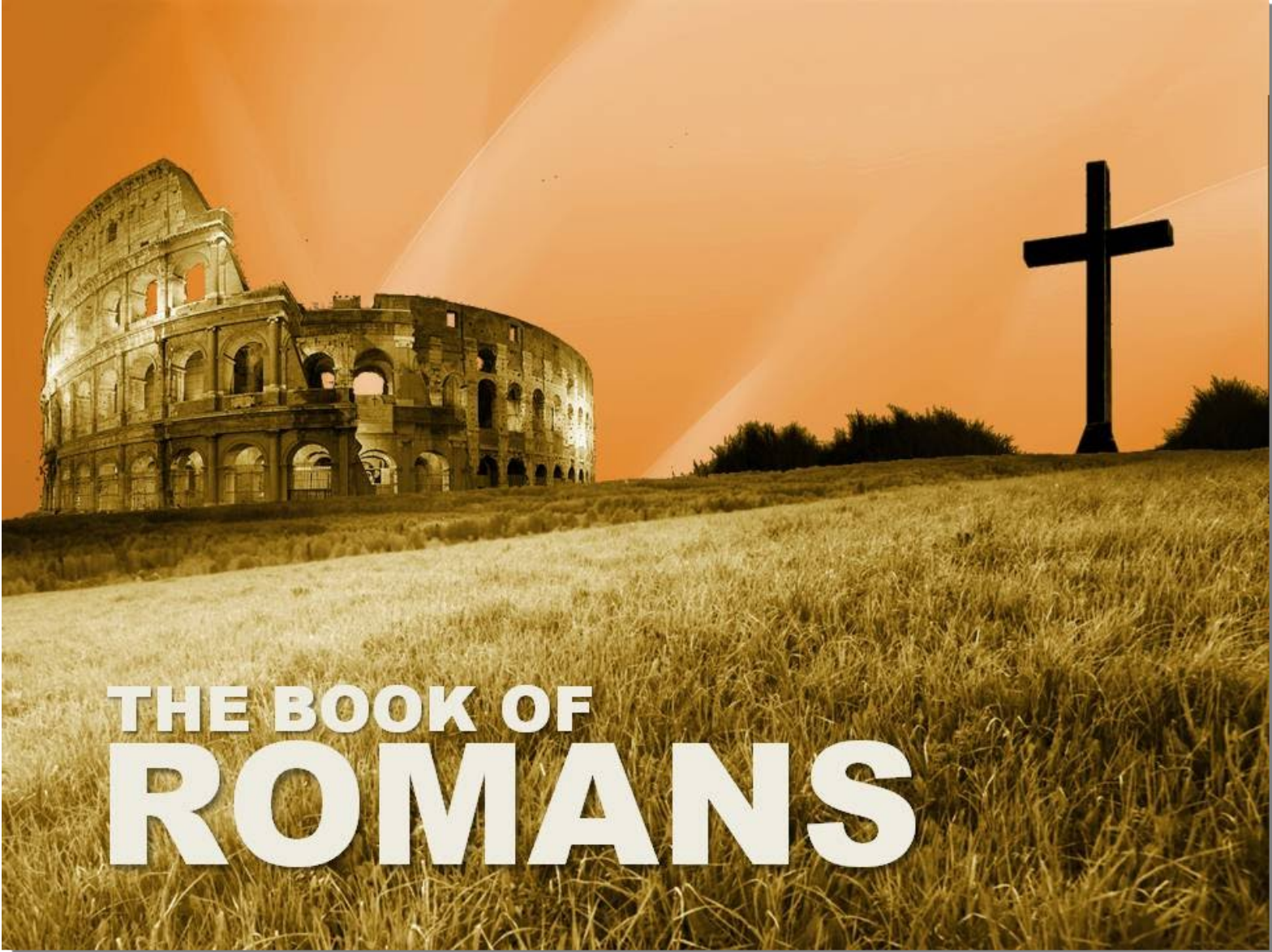


Rom 3:13-18 Paul's Indictments Against Mankind



Outline



Condemnation* of Mankind	1:18 -3:20
The Gentile World Condemned	1:18 - 2:16
Immoral Man Condemnation	1:18-32
Moral Man Condemnation	2:1-16
The Jewish World Condemned	2:17-3:8
The Whole World Condemned	3:9 –20
God's Assessment of Mankind 1	3:9-12
God's Assessment of Mankind 2	3:13-18
No Flesh Justified by the Works of the Law	3:19-20

* to give judgment against, pass sentence upon

Overview of Rom 3:9-19*



These verses picture a Court Room Scene:

- Verse 9 – **The Charge** – All Under Sin
- Verses 10 to 18 – **The Indictments**
 - Verses 10 to 12 – The Scope of Sin
 - Verses 13 to 17 – The Depths of Sin
 - Verse 18 - The Source of Sin
- Verse 19 – **Defense** – Every mouth is shut
- Verse 19 – **Verdict** – All the world is
accountable to God

* McCalley

God's Charge: All Mankind Under Sin

Rom 3:9

God's assessment of mankind - 3:9-12

All Mankind Under Sin



Rom 3:9c **both Jews and Greeks are all under sin;**



1st - Under its dominion or reign*

- The sin nature in the unbeliever reigns in his present spiritual death (separation from God)
- Rom 5:17 For if by the transgression of the one [Adam] death reigned through the one.

2nd - Under its power*

- Every person is born with an Adamic sin nature
- Rom 5:12 Therefore, just as through one man [Adam] sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned.

3rd - Under its penalty and condemnation*

- God has condemned the sin nature and since the unbeliever is in union with his sin nature then he is condemned
- Rom 8:3c He condemned [the] sin in the flesh. * Molloy

The Scope of Man's Sin – His Character v:10-11



- There is none righteous [not even one]
 - Ps 11:7 For the LORD is righteous, He loves righteousness; The upright will behold His face.
 - Rom 3:23 For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. [no one has a right standing with God]
- There is none who understands [God]
 - Man is continuously not understanding God
 - Rom 1:18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness.
- There is none who seeks for God
 - No one diligently seeks out God so as to turn to Him and glorify Him
 - Luke 19:10 For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.

Molloy

The Scope of Man's Sin – His Character v:12



- All have turned aside [from God]
 - Lit: to turn aside, deviate from the right way Wuest
 - Isa 53:6 All of us like sheep have gone astray, Each of us has turned to his own way; But the LORD has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him.
- Together they have become useless [rotten]
 - This word translated “useless” was used by the Greeks concerning rotten fruit, or whatever was utterly, irrevocably bad. Newell
 - Ps 53:3b they have altogether become filthy and corrupt. Amplified
- There is none who does good [not even one]
 - The word is descriptive of one's disposition [lit: kindness of heart] and does not necessarily entail acts of goodness - It's His grace in kindness.

Today's Verses



- 13 "Their **throat** is an open grave,
With their **tongues** they keep deceiving,"
"The poison of asps is under their **lips**";
- 14 "Whose **mouth** is full of cursing and bitterness";
- 15 "Their **feet** are swift to shed blood,
16 Destruction and misery are in their **paths**,
17 and the **path** of peace they have not known."
- 18 "There is **no fear** of god before their eyes."

Paul's Indictments Against Mankind*

(from verses 10 to 18)



- Mankind is sinful in character – verses 10 -12
 - as described in the scope of man's sin
- Mankind is sinful in speech – verses 13 -14
 - as described in the throat, tongue, lips and mouth
- Mankind is sinful in conduct – verses 15 -17
 - as described by the feet and path of a man
- Result of mankind's sinfulness – verse 18
 - as described by no fear of God in man

13 "Their throat is an open grave, With their tongues they keep deceiving," "The poison of asps is under their lips";



The throat of them *is* a grave having been opened Interlinear

them – a man not knowing Christ

having been opened – perfect passive participle

- This is past completed action with abiding results.
- The grave has been opened with the result that it stands open. Wuest
- A grave that stands open [permanently]. Wuest
- Robertson says; Their mouth (words) is like the odor of a newly opened grave.
- Ps 5:9a There is nothing reliable in what they say; Their inward part is destruction *itself*. Their throat is an open grave.

13 "Their throat is an open grave, With their tongues they keep deceiving, "The poison of asps is under their lips";



They were working deceit with the tongues of them Interlinear

were working deceit – *dolioō* - to lure, as by a bait
(imperfect, indicative, active)

- Continuous action in past time and it's a fact
- Which denotes the habitual practice of the human race
Newell
- Vincent says, "Hebrew, *they smoothed their tongues.*" He quotes Wycliffe: with their tongues they did beguile!
- They use their tongues to deceive (to mislead and to deal treacherously).
Amplified

13 "Their throat is an open grave, With their tongues they keep deceiving," "The poison of asps is under their lips";



The poison of asps is under their lips

- James 3:8 But no one can tame the tongue; it is a restless evil and full of deadly poison.
- The asp here is the Egyptian cobra, a deadly serpent. Its poison is contained in a bag under the lips.
Newell
- Ps 140:3 They sharpen their tongues as a serpent; Poison of a viper is under their lips. Selah.

14 Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness



Whose [the ones with poison of asps] mouth

is full -*gemō* - to be full, to be heavily laden with-as a ship

- present tense continuous action

of cursing - *ará* - the verb *kataráomai*, to curse, pray against, wish evil against a person or thing;

bitterness - *pikría* - of bitter and reproachful language

Ps 10:7 His mouth is full of curses and deceit and oppression;
Under his tongue is mischief and wickedness.

- How men do curse others! Bitterness is ever ready!

Newell

15 Their feet *are* swift to shed blood,

their - a man not knowing Christ

feet - The idea of feet is speaking of a man's conduct.

McCalley

swift – *oxús* - Swift, nimble, since the idea of sharpness or keenness implies also eagerness

- **Swift** is an adjective which describes their readiness to shed blood.

shed blood [pour out blood] - means to bring about death through the shedding of blood

- Isa 59:7a Their feet run to evil, And they hasten to shed innocent blood;
- Isa 59:7b Their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity.





¹⁶ Destruction and misery *are* in their paths,

- The metaphor of feet now changes to **paths** or ways
- Now we see their conduct described by the **paths** they take
- **destruction** - *syntrimma* - a breaking in pieces, ruin, shattering
- **misery** - *talaipōria* - hardship, suffering, distress
 - Rom 7:24 Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death?

Isa 59:7c Devastation and destruction are in their highways.

- “As it was in the days of Noah,” our Lord said, “so shall be the coming of the Son of Man.” In those days of Noah the earth became “full of violence.” Gen. 6:11

Newell

17 and the path of peace they have not known.

and they did not know the path of peace Interlinear modified



- This is a fact about the ones not knowing Christ
- The fact is not knowing the “path or way of peace”
- Isaiah 59:8 They do not know the way of peace, And there is no justice in their tracks; They have made their paths crooked, Whoever treads on [or goes in with] them does not know peace.
- The unregenerate man does not know, follow, or really desire to know the way of wisdom, all whose paths are peace. Prov. 3:17 Newell
- Prov 3:17 Her [wisdom’s] ways are pleasant ways And all her paths are peace.

18 There is no fear of god before their eyes.



- This verse states a present tense fact about the ones not knowing Christ
- They continually have no fear of God in lives
- Ps 36:1 Transgression speaks to the ungodly within his heart; There is no fear of God before his eyes.
- Ps 36:2 For he flatters and deceives himself in his own eyes that his iniquity will not be found out and be hated.
- Bengel aptly notes, The seat of reverence is in the eyes.
Newell
- Prov 1:7 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; Fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Final Thoughts*



- This great passage then, (verses 9 to 18) needs to be pondered, prayed over, thoroughly believed,
- Preached continually, in these last days, when God-consciousness is dying out.
- It is no kindness, but a terrible wrong, to hide from a criminal the sentence that must surely overtake him unless pardoned;
- For a physician to conceal from a patient a cancer that will destroy him unless quickly removed [is no kindness];
- For one acquainted with the hidden pitfalls of a path [that] he beholds someone taking, [and] not to warn him of his danger!

* Newell

[is no kindness]

