



# Romans 3:13-18

## God's Charge: All Mankind Under Sin

- **Background - *Rom 3:13-18***

- God gave His overall assessment of unbelieving mankind's sin nature in *Rom 3:9-12*
  - God's assessment of mankind
    1. All Mankind Under Sin - 3:9
    2. Not One Is Righteous - 3:10
    3. Not One Seeks God - 3:11
    4. Not One Does Good - 3:12
- Now God, who knows the heart of mankind, gives the specifics of unbelieving mankind's sin nature in *Rom 3:13-18*
  - Man's heart is darkened - *Rom 1:21* – “*Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened*”
  - Only God knows the darkened heart - *Jer17:9* “*The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?*”



# Romans 3:13-18

## God's Charge: All Mankind Under Sin

- God now gives the objective facts concerning man's sins in 3 categories:
  - Sins of Their Speech (Their Talk) - 3:13, 14
  - Sins of Their Way (Their Walk) - 3:15 -17
  - Sin of Their Relationship (Their Faith) - 3:18
- *Rom 3:13,14 NKJV – "Their throat is an open tomb; with their tongues they have practiced deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips; whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness."*
  - *"Their throat is an open sepulchre /grave;"*
    - Note: *Psalm 5:9 - "For there is no faithfulness in their mouth; their inward part is very wickedness; their throat is an open sepulchre; they flatter with their tongue."*
    - Their throat is identified as an open sepulchre (perfect passive participle – **why passive?**)



# Romans 3:13-18

## God's Charge: All Mankind Under Sin

- Question: What is an open sepulchre like?
  - *Matt 23:27; John 11:39*
    - Compare an open sepulchre (physically) with an open throat (spiritually)
    - What a vivid picture from God revealing what comes out of man's throat:
      - death, decay, & stench (from God's viewpoint)
    - “Emitting the noisome exhalations of a putrid heart.”
      - Bishop Howe
- “*with their tongues they have used deceit;*”
  - “deceit” - δολιόω *dolióō*; deceit - to lure as by bait, beguile – e.g. Satan with Eve
  - Hebrew, *they smoothed their tongues.*
    - The imperfect tense denotes *perseverance* in their hypocritical professions
    - Their words aren't harsh or cutting – they were in fact flattering (schmoozing)



# Romans 3:13-18

## God's Charge: All Mankind Under Sin

- *“the poison of asps is under their lips:”*
  - This is a picture of a deadly serpent coiled up & ready to strike its victim
    - e.g. *James 3:8 “But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly (unstable) evil, full of deadly poison.”*
- *“mouth full of cursing and bitterness” - Psalms 10:7*  
*“His mouth is full of cursing and deceit and fraud; under his tongue is mischief and vanity.”*
  - **The cursed, who are they - God and/or beyond (parents, siblings, employers, teachers, neighbors, governors, presidents)?**
    - *Luke 6:45 “A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil; for of the abundance of his heart his mouth speaketh”*



# Romans 3:13-18

## God's Charge: All Mankind Under Sin

- *Jeremiah 2:19* “*Thine own wickedness shall correct thee, and thy backslidings shall reprove thee. Know therefore and see that it is an evil thing and bitter that thou hast forsaken the Lord thy God, and that the fear of Me is not in thee, saith the Lord God of hosts.*”
- **But for the believer!** - *James 3:10* “*Out of the same mouth proceeds blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be.*”
- *Rom 3:15-17 NKJV* – “*Their feet are swift to shed blood; destruction and misery are in their ways; and the way of peace have they not known.*”
  - A mission of murder in the inhabitants of the feet.
    - *Prov 1:16* “*for their feet run to evil and make haste to shed blood.*”



# Romans 3:13-18

## God's Charge: All Mankind Under Sin

- *Isaiah 59:7* “*Their feet run to evil, and they make haste to shed innocent blood; their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity; wasting and destruction are in their paths.*”
- “*destruction and misery are in their way*”
  - *Destruction* – complete ruin, only NT usage
    - *Matt 7:13* “*Enter ye in at the strait gate, for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and many there be who go in thereat.*”
  - *Misery* – talaipwria - wretchedness, calamity
    - *Rom 7:24* “*O wretched (talaipwrov) man that I am! Who shall deliver me from the body of this death?*”
- “*way of peace they have not known*”
  - *Isaiah 59:8* “*The way of peace they know not, and there is no judgment in their goings; they have made them crooked paths; whosoever goeth therein shall not know peace.*”



# Romans 3:13-18

## God's Charge: All Mankind Under Sin

- What kind of peace is the HS talking about here?
  - a state of national tranquillity
  - between individuals, i.e. harmony, concord
  - security, safety, prosperity
  - with God – salvation
    - » *Rom 5:1 “Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:”*
  - of God – the walk
    - » *John 14:27 “Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”*
    - » *Phil 4:7 “And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”*
  - the blessed state of the believer after death
  - of the millennium and new heaven and earth
- How about *Prov 3:17 “Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace”*?



# Romans 3:13-18

## God's Charge: All Mankind Under Sin

- *Rom 3:18 NKJV – “There is no fear of God before their eyes.”*
  - *Psalms 36:1 “The transgression of the wicked saith within my heart that there is no fear of God before his eyes.”*
  - ‘fear’ – φόβος, phobos: alarm or fright
    - **Is not this true of many today – the educated, the liberal, the agnostic, the atheist, the self-righteous?**
  - **How should this fear be manifested?**
    - *Prov 8:13 “The fear of the Lord is to hate evil;...”*
    - *Prov 16:6 “By mercy and truth iniquity is purged, and by the fear of the Lord men depart from evil.”*
    - *Prov 23:17 “Let not thine heart envy sinners, but be thou in fear of the Lord all the day long.”*





# Romans 3:13-18

## God's Charge: All Mankind Under Sin

- *II Cor 7:1 “ Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, **perfecting holiness in the fear of God.**”*
  - *Phil 2:12 “Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, **work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.**”*
  - *I John 4:18 “There is no fear in love; but **perfect love casteth out fear**: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.”*
- According to Chafer, “to fear God consists in having such a due sense of the majesty and holiness and justice and goodness of God, as shall make us thoroughly fearful to offend Him. For each of these attributes of God is proper to raise a suitable fear in every Christian’s mind.”