

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Romans 3:9-20**.
- B. We do a lot of teaching and preaching on being righteous, but sometimes very little on staying away from sin.
- C. This morning I want to preach against sin. We need to know the terribleness of sin, so that we will want to stay away from it.

I. POINTS ABOUT SIN.

- A. First, **sin clouds the understanding about God** (Rom. 3:11a):
 - 1. Fools despise instruction (Prov. 1:7).
 - 2. What you don't know can hurt you.
 - 3. Ignorance is not bliss, ignorance of God's word is damnation (Hos. 4:6).
 - 4. Bad company corrupts good morals. Stay away from sinful people who will bring you down (1Cor. 15:33).
- B. Second, **sin obstructs the pathway to God** (Rom. 3:11b):
 - 1. As long as one is practicing sin, he is not seeking God.
 - 2. One is on the good path, or not on it. You cannot find the narrow gate if you are on the wide path (Mt. 7:13,14).
 - 3. When sin is in your life, God does not reign there (Rom. 6:12,13).
- C. Third, **those in sin are not doing themselves any good** (Rom. 3:12):
 - 1. Some may be moral, honest, giving, and friendly, but if they are not saved they are enemies of God!
 - 2. One cannot be just a "good old boy," always learning, but not the truth and get to heaven (2Tim. 3:7).
- D. Fourth, **the words of sinful men are as a foul odor, as they speak not the truth** (Rom. 3:13-14):
 - 1. This foul odor is as repulsive as the stench from an open grave.
 - 2. This should also be our attitude toward sin.
 - 3. Just a form of godliness is not enough (2Tim. 3:2-5).
- E. Fifth, **the sinful are out to tear down the righteous** (Rom. 3:15-17).
Compromise, the eroding of good principles, and secret heresies all work to bring the Christian down (2Pet. 3:17).
- F. Sixthly, **their hearts are hard, there is no fear of God** (Rom. 3:18):
 - 1. Only perfect love will cast out fear (1Jn. 4:18).
 - 2. Those deceived into sin will not fear God's coming punishment, this is a seared conscience (1Tim. 4:2).

II. THE CONCLUSION OF THE MATTER.

- A. All of the Jews are under sin (Rom. 3:19a).
- B. All of the Gentiles are under sin (Rom. 3:19b).
- C. And we know that Jesus is the end of the Law (Rom. 10:4).
- D. Freedom from sin comes through Him (Rom. 8:1-2).

INVITATION.

- A. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.