

Sermon Title: The Whole Humanity Is Under The Sentence Of Condemnation

Sermon Text: Romans 3:9-20

Sermon Purpose: To bring the hearer to the conclusion that all humans are guilty before God.

Sermon Proposition: There are four key concepts in Paul's closing arguments in God's case against man.

Introduction: Paul concludes his case against humanity, with closing summary arguments, which validate that Jews and Gentiles are guilty before Almighty God, thus deserve condemnation, by God.

“A popular newspaper advice columnist wrote, ‘One of the most painful, self-mutilating, time- and energy-consuming exercises in the human experience is guilt. . . . It can ruin your day – or your week or your life – if you let it. It turns up like a bad penny when you do something dishonest, hurtful, tacky, selfish, or rotten. . . . Never mind that it was the result of ignorance, stupidity, laziness, thoughtlessness, weak flesh, or clay feet. You did wrong and the guilt is killing you. Too bad. But be assured,’ she concluded, ‘the agony you feel is normal. . . . Remember guilt is a pollutant and we don’t need any more of it in the world.’ (*The Ann Landers Encyclopedia* [New York: Doubleday, 1978], pp. 514-17) With that she went on to another subject.

The ancient Roman philosopher Seneca wrote that every guilty person is his own hangman.

Men *feel* guilty because they *are* guilty. The guilt feeling is only the symptom of the real problem, which is sin. . . . That, of course, only intensifies the guilt, because it adds dishonesty to the sin that caused the guilt feeling in the first place.

Man's guilt has only one cause – his own sin – and unless his sin is removed, his guilt cannot be. That is why the first element of the gospel is confronting men with the reality of their sin. The word *gospel* means ‘good news.’ But the good news it offers is the way of salvation from sin, and until a person is convicted of his sin, the gospel has nothing to offer.

Dr. Donald Grey Barnhouse said, ‘It is only stubborn self-pride that keeps man from the confession to God that would bring release, but that way he refuses to take. Man stands before God today like a little boy who swears with crying and tears that he has not been anywhere near the jam jar, and who with an air of outraged innocence, pleads the justice of his position, in total ignorance of the fact that a good spoonful of the jam has fallen on his shirt under his chin and is plainly visible to all but himself.’ (*God's Wrath: Romans 2-3:1-20* [Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1953], p. 191).

Therefore, from creation, from history, from reason and logic, and from conscience, Paul has already presented powerful testimony of man's sinfulness.”

[*The MacArthur New Testament Commentary, Romans 1-8*, Moody Press, Chicago, 1991, pp. 178-179]

- I. The single charge against humanity. V. 9**
- II. The solid indictments against humanity. V.10-18**
- III. The silent defense against humanity. V.19a**
- IV. The sensible verdict against humanity. V.19b-20**

I. The single charge against humanity. V. 9

The main charge is that all of humanity is “under sin.” Humanity is completely enslaved and dominated by sin.

Paul has not only laid out the charge against humanity, but has proven the charge to be true, for both Jews and Gentiles. It means that humans are not only under sin, but they are under all that goes with sin.

1. Sin has its guilt.
2. Sin has its power.
3. Sin has its condemnation.
4. Sin has its doom.

II. The solid indictments against humanity. V.10-18

The order of judicial procedures requires that the indictments are to be put in writing.

In the world in God's eyes there are only two groups of people, Jews and Gentiles. "How many Jews and Gentiles are there who are righteous" v.10, 11, 12 says there are "none." Four times the expression none is used. Positively how many are sinners "all." V.9, 12, 19 All these quotes in vv.10-18, are taken from Psalm 14 and 53 and Isaiah.

There are fourteen counts in the indictment. Mercy is not found in the court of God, it is found at the cross of Jesus Christ. These indictments can be summarized in four areas.

A. The indictment against humanities character. V.10-12

Isaiah 53:6 All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

Psalm 14:1 The fool has said in his heart, "*There is no God.*" They are corrupt, They have done abominable works, There is none who does good. **2** The LORD looks down from heaven upon the children of men, To see if there are any who understand, who seek God. **3** They have all turned aside, They have together become corrupt; *There is none who does good, No, not one.*

Psalm 53:1 The fool has said in his heart, "*There is no God.*" They are corrupt, and have done abominable iniquity; *There is none who does good.* **2** God looks down from heaven upon the children of men, To see if there are *any* who understand, who seek God. **3** Every one of them has turned aside; They have together become corrupt; *There is none who does good, No, not one.* "Lack of spiritual comprehension, derangement of mentality."

B. The indictment against humanities conversation. V.13-14

Proverbs 10:31 The mouth of the righteous brings forth wisdom, But the perverse tongue will be cut out. **32** The lips of the righteous know what is acceptable, But the mouth of the wicked *what is* perverse.

Proverbs 15:2 The tongue of the wise uses knowledge rightly, But the mouth of fools pours forth foolishness.

Psalm 10:7 His mouth is full of cursing and deceit and oppression; Under his tongue *is* trouble and iniquity.

Psalm 64:3 Who sharpen their tongue like a sword, And bend *their bows to shoot* their arrows-- bitter words, **4** That they may shoot in secret at the blameless; Suddenly they shoot at him and do not fear.

Jeremiah 17:9 "The heart *is* deceitful above all *things*, And desperately wicked; Who can know it?"

Matthew 12:34 "Brood of vipers! How can you, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. **35** "A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things.

C. The indictment against humanities conduct. V.15-17

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. **8** The way of peace they have not known, And *there is* no justice in their ways; They have made themselves crooked paths; Whoever takes that way shall not know peace.

Jeremiah 6:14 They have also healed the hurt of My people slightly, Saying, 'Peace, peace!' When *there is* no peace.

D. The indictment against humanities conscious. V.18

Solomon says in Proverbs "for God is the beginning of wisdom and knowledge." Perhaps the source of all other sins is found here. Without reverential fear of God, there is the absence of wisdom, bringing about mental confusion, moral and spiritual darkness and blindness.

Character is what a man is. Speech is what a man says. Conduct is what a man does. In all that man is, in all that he says, in all that he does, there is the taint of depravity and sin. People outside of Christ, are described by more than what they do, they are described as what they are.

III. The silent defense against humanity. V.19a

When Paul brings the whole world of humanity before the judgment bar of God (Jew and Gentile), it is not a talkative, noisy courtroom. "It is a silent court room!" The mouth of the pagan, moral, religious, proud Jew, and even the mouth normally full of cursing and bitterness, is shut up in silence. All the world realize their guilt before a Holy God and His right to judge sin and sinners.

IV. The sensible verdict against humanity. V.19b-20

Paul includes all law, law of conscience, law of Moses, law that Christ laid down in the Sermon on the Mount, no matter what rules or laws, traditions, a man will try to follow to make himself right before God, it is clear, "By no works of law, no flesh shall be justified in His sight."

The only thing or function the law can perform is to make one aware of what is sin.

Paul has done his work; he has brought the whole world of humanity before the judgment seat of God, and left everyone standing there trembling and silent, not one person can speak.

Now we are ready for the provision of SALVATION!