**Sermon Title: The Verdict: Guilty But Not Hopeless!**

**Sermon Text: Romans 3:9-31**

**Sermon Purpose: To call the hearer to put their faith in Jesus Christ alone for deliverance from guilt and sin!**

**Sermon Proposition: There are 3 absolute truths, to be understood by all of humanity.**

**Introduction:**

**I. The charges of guilt by God. (Romans 3:9-21)**

 **Romans 3:9-21** What then? Are we better *than they*? Not at all. For we have previously charged both Jews and Greeks that they are all under sin. **10** As it is written: "There is none righteous, no, not one; **11** There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. **12** They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one." **13** "Their throat *is* an open tomb; With their tongues they have practiced deceit"; "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 ways; **17** And the way of peace they have not known." **18** "There is no fear of God before their eyes." **19** Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. **20** Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law *is* the knowledge of sin. **21** But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets,

 A. The charge stated. V.9

 **Romans 3:9** What then? Are we better *than they*? Not at all. For we have previously charged both Jews and Greeks that they are all under sin.

 **Genesis 2:15-17** Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. **16** And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; **17** "but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

 **Genesis 3:17-19** Then to Adam He said, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying,`You shall not eat of it': "Cursed *is* the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat *of* it All the days of your life. **18** Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, And you shall eat the herb of the field. **19** In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread Till you return to the ground, For out of it you were taken; For dust you *are*, And to dust you shall return."

 **Romans 5:12** Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned-- **13** (For until the law sin was in the world, but sin is not imputed when there is no law. **14** Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who had not sinned according to the likeness of the transgression of Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come.

 B. The **characteristics** stated. Vv. 10-18

 **Romans 3:10-18** **10** As it is written: "There is none righteous, no, not one; **11** There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. **12** They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one." **13** "Their throat *is* an open tomb; With their tongues they have practiced deceit"; "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 ways; **17** And the way of peace they have not known." **18** "There is no fear of God before their eyes."

 C. The **cross** examination stated. Vv.19-20

 **Romans 3:19-20** **19** Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. **20** Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law *is* the knowledge of sin.

**II. The charity of grace by God. Romans 3:21-26**

 **Romans 3:21-26** But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, **22** even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on allwho believe. For there is no difference; **23** for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, **24** being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, **25** whom God set forth *as* a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, **26** to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

 A. The charity of the **grace** gift. V.21-22

 **Romans 3:21-22** But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, **22** even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on allwho believe. For there is no difference;

 **Romans 5:1-2** Therefore, having been justified by faith, we havepeace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, **2** through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

 **Romans 5:6-10** For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. **7** For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. **8** But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. **9** Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. **10** For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

 B. The charity of the grace toward the **guilty**. Vv.23-26

 **Romans 3:23-26** **23** for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, **24** being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, **25** whom God set forth *as* a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, **26** to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

 **Romans 5:15-17** But the free gift *is* not like the offense. For if by the one man's offense many died, much more the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abounded to many. **16** And the gift *is* not like *that which came* through the one who sinned. For the judgment *which came* from one *offense resulted* in condemnation, but the free gift *which came* from many offenses *resulted* in justification. **17** For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.)

 **Romans 5:18-19** Therefore, as through one man's offense *judgment came* to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man's righteous act *the free gift came* to all men, resulting in justification of life. **19** For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous.

**III. The conclusion of God by God. Vv.27-31**

 **Romans 3:27** Where *is* boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? Of works? No, but by the law of faith. **28** Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law. **29** Or *is He* the God of the Jews only? *Is He* not also the God of the Gentiles? Yes, of the Gentiles also, **30** since *there is* one God who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith. **31** Do we then make void the law through faith? Certainly not! On the contrary, we establish the law.

 A. The conclusion of the absolute necessity of faith in **Jesus** **alone**. V.27-28

 **Romans 3:27-28** Where *is* boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? Of works? No, but by the law of faith. **28** Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law.

 B. The conclusion of the absolute necessity of faith for all **humanity**. Vv.29-31

  **Romans 3:29-31** **29** Or *is He* the God of the Jews only? *Is He* not also the God of the Gentiles? Yes, of the Gentiles also, **30** since *there is* one God who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith. **31** Do we then make void the law through faith? Certainly not! On the contrary, we establish the law.