

WHERE DO WE STAND ON OUR OWN EFFORTS?

Romans 3:1-20

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Main thought: We are helplessly condemned under our sin and can do nothing to earn God's favor and acceptance. All our good deeds and self-righteous acts are as filthy rags to God. God alone has provided salvation [next week].

Review: Chapter 1 – Gentiles are under sin. Chapter 2 – Jews are under sin.

Works righteous spiritual or religious model for approaching God: If I do this and that for God, then He will be obliged to do this and that to bless me. There is a bad life we are to reject and a good life we are to embrace and then we will be acceptable to God.

God's model for approaching God: Ephesians 2:8-10

- Romans 3:1-2** The Jews have the advantage of the Word of God.
John 5:39 The Scriptures point to Jesus.
- Romans 3:3-4** God remains faithful even when mankind is faithless!
Ps. 51:4 David declares God a just judge.
- Romans 3:5** A human argument to justify their sin.
- Romans 3:6** A just judgment is on the Jews just like the rest of the world.
- Romans 3:7-8** The more unrighteous we look, it makes God look more righteous – So He shouldn't condemn us for our sin. ["Reductio ad absurdum"]
- Romans 3:9** Everyone is caught in the universality of being "Under SIN" and it's condemnation.
- Romans 3:10-18** God testifies and describes to man's condition as sin plays out in our lives.
- Romans 3:10** Our condition under sin is unrighteousness. That is our legal standing.
- Romans 3:11** In our sin confused minds, no one understands to seek God for God's sake.
"Under sin" causes a "core corruption" that draws us to the patterns of this world.
- Romans 3:12** We are "worthless" to save ourselves under our own efforts.
Isaiah 64:6 "..all our righteous acts are like filthy rags."
This is about our will and what drives our hearts.
Isaiah 53:6 **Jeremiah 17:9**
- Romans 3:13-14** Our mouths testify that our hearts are "under sin".
- Romans 3:15-17** Under sin our relationships are broken and destructive.
- Romans 3:18** A summary of our sin problem is a lack of a fear of God.
- Romans 3:19-20** The Law proves us guilty and silences the justifications of our mouths.
- Romans 3:21** "But now..." God has provided the only way for salvation! [Next Week!!!]