



Lesson 7: Our Need for Salvation – The Whole World is Guilty Before God

Golden Text:

"There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God."
Romans 3:11 (KJV)

Study at a Glance: The 5 W's

Key Area	Details and Summary
WHO (Author & Audience)	Paul the Apostle wrote under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit to the believers in Rome, addressing both Gentiles and Jews—representing all of humanity.
WHAT (Core Message)	The universal guilt of mankind: how human choices, moral decline, and total depravity leave every person without excuse and under God's righteous judgment.
WHEN (Timing)	Written approximately A.D. 57-58
WHERE (Location)	From Corinth during Paul's third missionary journey.
WHY (Rationale)	To strip away human self-righteousness, shut every mouth, and prove that salvation cannot be earned, thereby pointing sinners to their absolute need for the grace of God.

Introduction

Imagine standing in a courtroom where a defendant insists they are innocent, pointing to a few minor good deeds while completely ignoring a mountain of evidence against them. They feel secure in their own mind, but when the full weight of the law is read aloud, every defense crumbles and absolute silence fills the room.

In the opening chapters of Romans, the Apostle Paul acts as a spiritual prosecutor, examining the state of the human race. This lesson explores why God opposes sin, how human societies drift into spiritual darkness, and why every person ultimately stands accountable before a holy God.

Transition into Section 1: Every legal case begins by establishing the facts and looking at the root of the problem. As Paul opens his argument, he directs our attention to how humanity responds to the unmistakable evidence of the Creator.

Section 1: Reasons for God's Wrath

Scripture: Romans 1:18-23

Word Study

- **Select the Word:** Choose a significant term from the Bible passage (for example, the word "suppress" or "hold down" in Romans 1:18).
- **Find the Original Word:** Look up the original Hebrew or Greek word along with its precise definition..
- **Read the Immediate Context:** Read the verse before and after to get an understanding of what's happening.
- **Trace the Word Through Scripture:** Look at how the exact same word is used in other books or passages of the Bible.
- **Compare and Apply:** Write a summary sentence on what it means to you.

The Bible reveals that God has made His invisible power and divine nature clearly understood through the created world, leaving people without excuse. Yet, human nature often reacts by actively pushing back against that clarity, replacing the truth of the Creator with lesser things and drifting into confusion.

Discussion Questions

1. **(Text/Exegesis)** Why does Paul connect failure to glorify God with distorted thinking?
2. **(Application)** What are some ways people today elevate success, money, relationships, knowledge, or personal independence above God while still believing their choices are wise and reasonable?

Transition into Section 2: When an individual or a society continually pushes past warning boundaries, the situation escalates. In this next section, we examine what happens when human rebellion moves from individual choice to a deeper, systemic drifting.

Section 2: The Conditions of Godlessness

Scripture: Romans 1:24-32

Word Study

- **Select the Word:** "Gave them up" / "Gave them over"
- **Find the Original Word:** Look up the original Hebrew or Greek word along with its precise definition..
- **Read the Immediate Context:** Read the verse before and after to get an understanding of what's happening.
- **Trace the Word Through Scripture:** Look at how the exact same word is used in other books or passages of the Bible.
- **Compare and Apply:** Write a summary sentence on what it means to you.

Discussion Questions

1. **(Text/Exegesis)** In what ways does the recurring phrase "God gave them over" demonstrate how a hardened heart progressively drifts away from moral truth?
2. **(Application)** What does it look like in everyday life to guard our own hearts against small compromises before they lead to a hardened conscience?

Transition into Section 3: Having looked at cultural and individual patterns, the prosecutor brings forward the final, sweeping evidence. We now turn to the core diagnosis of the human heart that proves no defense can stand on its own.

Section 3: The Depth of Human Depravity

Scripture: Romans 3:9-20

Word Study

- **Select the Word:** "Guilty"
- **Find the Original Word:** Look up the original Hebrew or Greek word along with its precise definition..

- **Read the Immediate Context:** Read the verse before and after to get an understanding of what's happening.
- **Trace the Word Through Scripture:** Look at how the exact same word is used in other books or passages of the Bible.
- **Compare and Apply:** Write a summary sentence on what it means to you.

Discussion Questions

1. **(Text/Exegesis)** How does Paul combine multiple Old Testament passages to prove that every single person is affected by sin?
2. **(Application)** Why is it vital to acknowledge our own flaws and limitations before we can truly appreciate the magnitude of God's grace?

Closing: Bringing It All Together

The diagnosis found in Romans 1 through 3 is deep and searching, ultimately clearing the path to understand our need for redemption. The journey can be summarized by three main ideas:

1. **A Truth Suppressed:** Pushing aside the clear evidence of the Creator.
2. **A Culture Given Over:** Facing the breakdown that occurs when moral boundaries are abandoned.
3. **A Courtroom Silenced :** Facing our true accountability before a holy standard.

As the divine courtroom proceedings conclude, every human defense is dismantled and every mouth is stopped so that no one can boast in their own righteousness. Yet, this total verdict of guilt is not meant to leave us in despair; rather, it clears away our self-reliance and opens our eyes to see our absolute, beautiful need for the grace found only in Jesus Christ.