**THERE IS NO ONE RIGHTEOUS**

Romans 2:17-3:20

Key Verse 3:10

*As it is written: ‘There is no one righteous, not even one.’*

Introductory note[[1]](#footnote-0)

1. To whom does Paul address these verses (17a)? What did they boast about, and on what basis were they right (17b-20)? How did they abuse their privileges (21-23)? What was the result (23-24)?
2. What did circumcision mean to the Jews (Gen 17:11)? How is circumcision related to the law, and what is the real issue (25-27; Gal 5:3)? What is true circumcision (28-29; Dt 30:6)? How can we avoid religious hypocrisy and please God?
3. What advantage is there in being a Jew, or in being circumcised (3:1-2; 9:4-5)? Why can’t human unfaithfulness nullify God’s faithfulness (3-4)? How do unfaithful people try to justify themselves and what do they deserve (5-8)?
4. Read verses 9-10. Why are Jews not better off than Gentiles (9)? What do quotations from the Old Testament show about the nature, pervasiveness and universality of sin (10-18)? How does this help us understand ourselves?
5. Who are those “under the law”? What do the Old Testament quotations say to them (19)? What do the words “every mouth” and “the whole world” imply? What is Paul’s conclusion regarding works of the law (20a)? What is a function of the law (20b)?

1. In 1:18-3:20, Paul portrays sinful humanity and declares that no one is righteous. He paints a dark picture of humanity, showing conclusively that all are sinners. In 1:18-32 Paul first looked at the depraved Gentile world that lived without God. Then in 2:1-16 he examined moralizers, whether Jew or Gentile, who have a high moral standard which they apply to others but not themselves. Now in today’s passage (2:17-3:28) he turned to the Jews who boasted about the law but did not obey it (2:17-3:8). Finally, he concluded that all human beings are guilty, without excuse, and deserve God’s righteous judgment (3:9-20; 9:22; Eph 3:4). This is universal truth about mankind. We must accept this truth to accept the gospel. [↑](#footnote-ref-0)