

My Thoughts for Sunday, June 22, 2014

"I've Got it covered...I can do this by myself."

[Romans 3:9-18](#) (NIV2011)

⁹ *What shall we conclude then? Do we have any advantage? Not at all! For we have already made the charge that Jews and Gentiles alike are all under the power of sin.*

¹⁰ *As it is written: "There is no one righteous, not even one;*

¹¹ *there is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God.*

¹² *All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one."*

¹³ *"Their throats are open graves; their tongues practice deceit."*

"The poison of vipers is on their lips."

¹⁴ *"Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness."*

¹⁵ *"Their feet are swift to shed blood;*

¹⁶ *ruin and misery mark their ways,*

¹⁷ *and the way of peace they do not know."*

¹⁸ *"There is no fear of God before their eyes."*

What a terrible state of affairs we are under, through the law. None of us is capable of doing anything for ourselves that could be God-pleasing. We are heaped in sin and unbelief if left to our own attempts to be worthy in God's eyes.

Those many years ago I was so sure I had it covered; I just knew I could turn my life around from the deep sin and depravity I had willfully succumbed to. I was so sure I didn't have to get help from anyone. I definitely was not ready to lay bare my sins to my God, for all the shame. What a fool I was. As Paul wrote to the Romans in verse 12 in our text...*"All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one."* We all, in our sin, turn away from our God to try to hide our acts. This is extremely foolish as God sees all and even knows our innermost thoughts—also many times sinful.

You bet, I know now that I did not stand a chance of doing the right thing. I could no more turn my life around than I could stop the world from turning. It took many sleepless nights and much infighting with myself to finally realize, with the help of God's Word, that it could only be with His help that I might eventually feel His understanding, forgiveness and peace. Looking beyond our text for the day, in [Romans 3:19-20](#), we are told very plainly that NO ONE can be declared righteous under the law. I finally realized I did not have it covered! I could not even begin to make it right, either with those I had wronged or especially with my God!

This is the primary reason I love to study the letter to the Romans, I can feel that Paul, under God's divine inspiration, was talking directly to me and my life of sin. He went on to say in [Romans 3:21-24](#) that we are given that righteousness only through the innocent suffering, death and resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ. What a tremendous gift! Paul states in v.26...*"He did it to demonstrate His righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus."*

Did you see and realize the directive given to us of what WE have to do to gain this righteousness? I hope you read it right, as I did! We are justified not by our own efforts in getting our lives together. We are justified not by straightening out our own mistakes and sins in our lives! No, we are given this FREE gift of justification merely by believing in our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ thru that same innocent suffering, death and resurrection, purely for that purpose; to justify us. We have no chance apart from that free gift. As for me, I am overjoyed to realize and accept this gift and wish to pass this wonderful promise on to all those I come in contact with.

Please join with me in a heartfelt "Thank you Jesus."