



The Book of Romans

Tuesday Bible Study at St. John Lutheran Church

March 3: Accountable to God

Romans 3:9-20

What do we mean by original sin?

Why do we bristle at confessing that we are “poor, miserable sinners”?

Why is “doing our best” not good enough?

“Our churches teach that since the fall of Adam [Romans 5:12], all who are naturally born are born with sin [Psalm 51:5], that is, without the fear of God, without trust in God, and with the inclination to sin, called concupiscence. Concupiscence is a disease and original vice that is truly sin. It damns and brings eternal death on those who are not born anew through Baptism and the Holy Spirit [John 3:5].” – *The Augsburg Confession*

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Romans 3:9

What is the condition of every naturally born human?

^{NKJ} **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.

Romans 3:10-12

Where does Paul find his evidence for our sinful condition before God?

Psalm 14:2-3 The LORD looks down from heaven on the children of man, to see if there are any who understand, who seek after God. They have all turned aside; together they have become corrupt; there is none who does good, not even one.

What is the extent of the fall into sin?

Romans 3:22-23 For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

Romans 3:13-14

Upon what kind of sin does Paul focus? Why?

Psalm 5:9 For there is no truth in their mouth; their inmost self is destruction; their throat is an open grave; they flatter with their tongue.

James 3:6 And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell.

How should we respond to this revelation about our words?

Romans 3:15-18

Upon what other kind of sin does Paul focus? Why?

What is the final problem on Paul's list?

Psalm 36:1-4 Transgression speaks to the wicked deep in his heart; there is no fear of God before his eyes. For he flatters himself in his own eyes that his iniquity cannot be found out and hated. The words of his mouth are trouble and deceit; he has ceased to act wisely and do good. He plots trouble while on his bed; he sets himself in a way that is not good; he does not reject evil.

Romans 3:19-20

To whom does the Law speak? Who is under the Law?

1 Corinthians 9:20-21 To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law. To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law.

What is it that the Law cannot do?

What does it mean to be justified in His sight?