

## DEPRAVITY ON TRIAL

### ROMANS 3:1-21

2/16/25

#### I. DEPRAVED OBJECTIONS

##### A. Why be a Jew?

*Romans 3:1-2 - "Then what advantage has the Jew? Or what is the value of circumcision?<sup>2</sup> Much in every way. To begin with, the Jews were entrusted with the oracles of God."*

~Answer: You have the advantage of the Oracles of God

##### B. Is God not faithful?

*Romans 3:3-4 - "What if some were unfaithful? Does their faithlessness nullify the faithfulness of God?<sup>4</sup> By no means! Let God be true though every one were a liar, as it is written, 'That you may be justified in your words, and prevail when you are judged.'"*

~Answer: God is not contingent upon man's faithfulness

##### C. Does evil serve God's purposes?

*Romans 3:5-8 - "But if our unrighteousness serves to show the righteousness of God, what shall we say? That God is unrighteous to inflict wrath on us? (I speak in a human way.)<sup>6</sup> By no means! For then how could God judge the world?<sup>7</sup> But if through my lie God's truth abounds to his glory, why am I still being condemned as a sinner?<sup>8</sup> And why not do evil that good may come?—as some people slanderously charge us with saying. Their condemnation is just."*

~Answer: We are accountable

#### II. QUESTION: IS ANYONE EXEMPT FROM DEPRAVITY?

*Romans 3:9 - "What then? Are we Jews any better off? No, not at all. For we have already charged that all, both Jews and Greeks, are under sin..."*

##### A. Jews have an advantage but are still culpable

##### B. Both Jew and Gentile are "under sin"

~Total depravity – Sin has affected every area of mankind and there is nothing man can do to merit favor with God

#### III. CASE FOR TOTAL DEPRAVITY

*Romans 3:10-18 - "...as it is written: "None is righteous, no, not one;<sup>11</sup> no one understands; no one seeks for God.<sup>12</sup> All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.<sup>13</sup> Their throat is an open grave; they use their tongues to deceive. The venom of asps is under their lips.<sup>14</sup> Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness.<sup>15</sup> "Their feet are swift to shed blood; <sup>16</sup> in their paths are ruin and misery,<sup>17</sup> and the way of peace they have not known.<sup>18</sup> "There is no fear of God before their eyes."*

##### A. No one is righteous

##### B. No one understands

*1 Corinthians 2:14 - "The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned."*

- C. No one seeks**
- D. Everyone turns aside**
- E. No one does good**
- F. Depravity manifests itself in words**
- G. Depravity manifests itself in actions**
- H. Depravity creates no peace**
- I. Depravity creates no fear**

#### **IV. VERDICT FOR THE DEPRAVED**

*Romans 3:19-20 - "Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. <sup>20</sup>For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin."*

- A. Silent and accountable**
- B. Exposed by the law**

#### **V. HOPE FOR THE DEPRAVED**

*Romans 3:21 - "But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it..."*

- A. God's righteousness is manifested apart from the condemning law!**

### **COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. What did you think about the message this week? What stood out to you or challenged your thinking?
2. Why is it important for Paul to make a case for our depravity? Why is this an important starting place for our understanding of the Gospel?
3. How does understanding the depths of our depravity make the Gospel so miraculous?
4. Do you think the world believes the message that humanity is totally depraved? Why or why not? How could Paul's message of our depravity be offensive to the world?
5. Most other major religions are built upon humanities goodness and our ability to do good...how do these religions differ from what Paul presents here in Romans 3?
6. How does a passage like this help encourage you to be on Gospel mission?
7. What is one thing from the message or the group this week that you can take with you and live out? How can the group be praying for you as you live that out?