

Your Condition and God's Remedy  
Romans 3:9-20

*A spiritual problem requires a spiritual solution.*

If the condition was – not trying hard enough, Paul would have said – try harder.  
If the condition was – not religious enough, Paul would have said – be more religious.  
If the condition was – negative thinking, Paul would have said – think positive.  
If the condition was – the wrong political leader, Paul would have said – get the right political leader.

Since the remedy is a Savior, Paul described the condition as ... sinful people in need of a Savior.  
People need to be saved from their sin AND from God's wrath.

Notice the pervasiveness of the condition.

3:10 - No one understands – **the mind**.

3:10 - No one seeks – **the heart**. (See also, Deut 4:29, Jer 29:13)

3:12 – All have turned away – **the will**. (**See also**, Isaiah 45:22, Isaiah 53:6, Acts 3:19)

3:13 – Several examples of your words: **throat, tongue, lips** and **mouth**.

3:15 – Relationships. **Feet** are swift to shed blood.

3:18 – Worldview. *No fear of God before their eyes*.

I think you could look at it this way:

Your sin nature is not a war injury. It's a birth defect.

You are by nature, a sinner. You crave, delight, plan and pursue sin because you are a sinner.

Sin has impacted your mind, heart, will – the totality of your being.

This is what is sometimes called, **Total Depravity**.

It's not that people are as bad as they can possibly be but rather the impact of sin has touched every area of their lives.

This passage helps to explain a lot.

Romans 3 is written about you and me. This is our starting point.

If you are a Christian, consider how far you have come.

By nature, you do not seek God, but you are engaged in Scripture. You are seeking God right now.

How did that happen?

God has been at work on your heart, mind and will.

By nature, you turn away from God but set aside time for this teaching.

Many of you, on a regular basis choose to turn FROM sinful desires TO the God who has saved you.

How did that happen?

God has been at work in your heart, mind and will.

**In Summary:**

Our natural condition is this: sinners who are alienated from God.

The remedy for our sin is Jesus.

The life-changing grace of God is extended to you through the person of Jesus.

You don't have to do a list of things to fix yourself or try to live a better life on your own.

You need to repent of sin and turn to Jesus.

**Very important:** Look for and ask for the Holy Spirit to empower you to live the life that God has for you.

### **Home Group Discussion Questions:**

1. In your journey to come to Jesus, did you think much about your spiritual condition?  
How about now – assuming you are a Christian – do you think much about your spiritual condition?
2. Reading through Romans 3:9-20, there isn't much there on the surface that feels good. How does this section of Scripture help you? For instance, does it help you to consider where your natural condition is, (Pastor Karl called this your starting point) and how far you've come?
3. With regard to the mind, heart, will, words and relationships – can you see any specific growth areas you would like to pursue? Can you see any changes in recent months/years in any of these areas?
4. As we read through the Book of Romans, we learn that salvation is a whole lot more than getting your ticket to heaven. Being saved has a past, present and future component.  
Past: Saved from penalty of sin.  
Present: Saved from the power of sin.  
Future: Saved from the presence of sin.

Which of these aspects of salvation do you connect with most readily?

Which of these aspects of salvation do you need to give more attention and consideration?