


BELIEVERS BIBLE FELLOWSHIP
July 20, 2014

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Lesson No.8

Book of Romans



Sinful Human Tongue
Romans 3:10-19

- The Character of Man
- The Conduct of Man

Key Verse: Romans 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.

Introduction: This section ends (from chap.1:18-3:23) Paul's demonstration of the need for salvation as he has revealed the facts of human experience. The verdict, both Jews and Gentiles are guilty! (chap.3:9)

Paul turns his attention to "*proving*" the case of sin by referring to the Word of God. He gathers Scriptures from the Psalms, Proverbs and Isaiah which speaks about: (1) the character of man as God sees it; "*nothing is hidden from His eyes, not our thoughts, our hearts, our intents or our motives*" (2) the conduct of man, in both "*speech and action*"

1. The Character of Man: vv.10-12 Sin has created a barrier between God and man which hinders access to God. Human beings are under the power of sin; incapable of pleasing God; and incapable of saving ourselves. Man is "*totally depraved*" [Isaiah 53:6](#); [64:6](#) and [Psalm 14:1-3](#)

- No one righteous, not even one: however, we mentally add, "*except me*"
- No one who understands: people are searching to understand the mystery of life.
- No one searches for God: people are looking for "*a god*" but not the God.

2. The Conduct of Man: vv.13-14 Paul covers the whole realm of the speech. It begins deep down in the throat; it comes then to the tongue; then the lips; and the whole mouth. God sees an open grave with a stinking, rotten corpse and a horrible stench coming up from it that reveals itself, ultimately in vulgarity. [James 3:10](#)

- Their tongue practices deceit: "*little white lies*" we erect facades; the way we claim to feel one way when we actually feel another.
- The poison of vipers: a picture of the tongue used to slander, to plant poison in another person's heart; the put-downs, the sarcasm that cuts someone and depersonalizes them.
- Their mouth is full of cursing and bitterness: what is down in the heart comes out in the speech; not only vulgarity, but hypocrisy. Sin is what causes children to love "*toilet talk*"



Nothing can trip a believer more than a dangling tongue. It is Powerful, Perverse and Polluted. Support reference: The Faculty of Speech [ej5](#) (text only) or [ejpp5](#) (powerpoint edition)

The Actions of Man: vv.15-19 wherever man goes "*ruin and misery mark their path*" When men reject God, they lose everything. That brings us back to chap.1:18 The wrath of God is revealed.