

THE WORLD'S GREATEST PROBLEM

Sunday January 12, 2025 -- Dr. Paul Chitwood -- President, International Mission Board (IMB)

ROMANS 3:9-18

English Standard Version (ESV)

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, **10** as it is written:*

*“None is righteous, no, not one;
11 no one understands;
no one seeks for God.
12 All have turned aside; together they have become worthless;
no one does good,
not even one.”*

13 *“Their throat is an open grave;
they use their tongues to deceive.”
“The venom of asps is under their lips.”*

14 *“Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness.”*

15 *“Their feet are swift to shed blood;
16 in their paths are ruin and misery,
17 and the way of peace they have not known.”*

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

1. Lostness is the world's greatest problem.

A) Lostness is an eternal problem.

B) Lostness is a universal problem

ROMANS 3:9-12

- 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,*
10 *as it is written:*
“None is righteous, no, not one;
11 *no one understands;*
no one seeks for God.
12 *All have turned aside; together they have become worthless;*
no one does good,
not even one.”

MATTHEW 12:34 (Jesus speaking to Pharisees)

*You brood of vipers! How can you speak good, when you are evil?
For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.*

2. The gospel is the only solution.

GENESIS 3:13-15

- 13 *Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?”
The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”*
14 *The Lord God said to the serpent,*
“Because you have done this,
cursed are you above all livestock
and above all beasts of the field;
on your belly you shall go,
and dust you shall eat
all the days of your life.
15 *I will put enmity between you and the woman,*
and between your offspring and her offspring;
he shall bruise your head,
and you shall bruise his heel.”

JOHN 3:14-15

14 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, 15 that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.