

How Sinful We Are

Romans 1:1 – 3:20

by Don Falkos

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Hello. My name is Paul. We've never met. I am devoted to Christ Jesus and have been chosen by God to share the good news with Gentiles everywhere. I have long desired to visit Rome, to share the good news with you, to encourage you in your faith, and to receive encouragement from you.

The good news is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes – both Jews and Gentiles – making it possible for us to live unashamed and unafraid, with God's approval. All of which is accomplished from start to finish by faith.

Since the beginning of the world, people have seen the creation and understood God's eternal power and divine nature. But more often than not, they have chosen to turn away from God, worshiping the creation rather than the creator. In the end, God abandons such people to their own foolishness. Their lives became full of wickedness.

But don't look down on them because of their wrongdoing; you're just as sinful as they are. Instead, recognize God's generosity and patient kindness, which is meant to lead you to repentance.

You might ask: Are Jews better off than Gentiles? Well, the Jews do have the written Law of God. But do they obey it? Gentiles who instinctively obey the Law without ever having heard it show that God's Law is written in their hearts. Jewish men are circumcised according to the Law. But true circumcision is a change of heart produced by the Spirit.

All of us are under the power of sin. As the scriptures say, "No one is righteous – not even one." The Law simply shows us how sinful we are.