



**FAITH**  
**& LOVE**  
Church of God in Christ

Faith and Love C.O.G.I.C  
Sunday School

Lesson 6 July 12, 2026

WE WERE ALL UNDER  
SIN'S POWER

# SUNDAY SCHOOL CORE VALUES



**Lesson 6 July 12, 2026**

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## **SUNDAY SCHOOL RESPONSIVE READING**

**Superintendent/Teacher:** Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity. **Psalm 133:1**

**School/Class:** But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased. **Hebrews 13:16**

**Superintendent/Teacher:** All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness. **2 Timothy 3:16**

**School/Class:** Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. **Psalm 119:105**

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## SUNDAY SCHOOL RESPONSIVE READING

Superintendent/Teacher: Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. **Philippians 2:4**

School/Class: He who has a generous eye will be blessed, for he gives of his bread to the poor. **Proverbs 22:9**

Superintendent/Teacher: Therefore he says: "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive and gave gifts to men." **Ephesians 4:8**

School/Class: As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. **1 Peter 4:10**

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## **SUNDAY SCHOOL RESPONSIVE READING**

**Superintendent/Teacher**: For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. **1 Corinthians 12:12**

**School/Class**: For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function. **Romans 12:4**

**Superintendent/Teacher**: By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another. **John 13:35**

**School/Class**: For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. **Gal. 5:13**

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## **SUNDAY SCHOOL RESPONSIVE READING**

**ALL:**

But grow in the grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

**2 Peter 3:18**

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- Bible Basis: Romans 3:9-20
- Bible Truth: Humans are God's creation. Paul laments that we have corrupted ourselves from the beginning and that all unrepentant sinners will be held accountable by God.
- Memory Verse: "Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin" (Romans 3:20)
- Lesson Aim: By the end of the lesson, we will: KNOW that humankind began corrupting creation from the start and God's retribution to sinners will surely come; ACCEPT our personal roles toward our own corruption; and BE ATTENTIVE to the biblical prophets and accept accountability with God by repenting and being redeemed back to God.
- Background Scriptures: [Psalm 136:1-9](#); [Romans 3:9-20](#); [1 John 1:5-10](#) – Read and incorporate the insights gained from the Background Scriptures into your study of the lesson.

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**Romans 3:9-20 KJV**

**9** What then? are we better than they? No, in no wise: for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin;

**10** As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:

**11** There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.

**12** They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.

**13** Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips:

**14** Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness:

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**Romans 3:9-20 KJV**

**15** Their feet are swift to shed blood:

**16** Destruction and misery are in their ways:

**17** And the way of peace have they not known:

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

**19** Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.

**20** Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

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## **LIGHT ON THE WORD**

**Saul/Apostle Paul.** A well-educated Roman citizen, Saul was a Pharisee who persecuted Christians as proof of his zeal for the Jewish faith and way of life ([Philippians 3:4-6](#); [Acts 26:4-5](#)). On such a mission on the road to Damascus, he had a remarkable encounter with Jesus. Shortly after, he learned of his call from God to take "[God's] message to the Gentiles and to kings, as well as to the people of Israel" ([Acts 9:15, NLT](#)). As an apostle, Paul's life exemplified one of great sacrifice and persecution. He wrote about his experiences in hopes of drawing people to Christ, and to strengthen and mature believers.

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## **LIGHT ON THE WORD**

**Roman believers.** Scripture does not record who founded the church at Rome, but it boasted members of both Gentile and Jewish backgrounds. The congregation struggled with various problems, including disunity based on the differences between their Jewish and Gentile members and because of conflicting ideology about sin, repentance, and judgment.

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## **LIFE NEED FOR TODAY'S LESSON:**

AIM: We will affirm that many people are grateful for all they have in life, but others take every opportunity to abuse their privileges.

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# **INTRODUCTION**

**Repentance, Faith, and Salvation**

In the book of Romans, Paul helped believers understand the importance of salvation by faith, not works. Because of their need for a solid, faith-based spiritual foundation, Paul provided clarification of Christian doctrine. He offered glimpses into the Jewish way of life by the law, but stressed the importance of service to Christ by faith, rather than through legalistic activities.

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# **INTRODUCTION**

**Repentance, Faith, and Salvation**

Further, he emphasized the importance of repentance, salvation, and unity among believers. In underscoring that all believers – Jews and Gentiles – are equal in God's eyes, he also confirmed that God's promise to the Jews remains intact ([Romans 9-11](#)).

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# **INTRODUCTION**

## **Repentance, Faith, and Salvation**

In today's lesson, Paul addresses the fact that all human beings are inherently sinful. He reminds us: "all people, whether Jews or Gentiles, are under the power of sin" (Romans 3:9, NLT). Thus, we equally were guilty and deserved God's judgment. However we also all need God's grace and need continual reminders that: 1) sin is universal – meaning that the tempter will try anyone; 2) we all were guilty at some point; and 3) only God can restore us to fellowship with Him as we accept accountability and repent for our words and deeds.

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## **BIBLE LEARNING**

AIM: We will understand that the Word of God shows how sinful man is and reassures that God can restore any repentant heart.

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## **I. SIN IS UNIVERSAL**

Romans 3:9-12

Some Jews (especially the Pharisees and their followers) believed following the letter of the Law made them righteous in man's and God's eyes. Upon converting to Christianity, they needed to be reminded that justification is based on faith, not works. Paul facilitated their understanding by exploring the notion of sin in two contexts. First, he defined it as a presence that is ever presented to all people. Second, he defined it as the unrighteous deeds to which under its power yields and those redeemed by God resists.

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## **I. SIN IS UNIVERSAL**

Romans 3:9-12

And, he made it clear that sin is universal, meaning that temptation is all around us and none is exempt from the deceiver's attempts at trying to get you to turn away from God. Paul reminded Roman believers, "As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one" (v. 10, KJV). He was referring to [Psalm 14:2-3 \(NLT\)](#), which states: "The LORD looks down from heaven on the entire human race; he looks to see if anyone is truly wise, if anyone seeks God. But no, all have turned away; all have become corrupt. No one does good, not a single one!" This makes it clear that every single person was once marked by sin. We were all unworthy of God's grace. No one was innocent, which confirms the Scripture stating that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us ([Romans 5:8](#)).

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## **I. SIN IS UNIVERSAL**

Romans 3:9-12

9 What then? are we better than they? No, in no wise: for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin.

In this passage, Paul sets out to show how whether Jew or Gentile, all are under sin. He refers to the argument in Romans 2 (especially vv. 11-12) which proved (Gk. *proaitiaomai*, **pro-eye-tee-AH-oh-my**), or brought a charge against previously, that all are under sin. The phrase "under sin" means to be in the sphere of sin's power and recipients of God's judgment of sin. This is very similar to non-Western cultures of today who consider that the world is ruled by various "powers." For Paul, sin is one of those powers which holds sway over every human on the planet. It is not just that people sin as an action. They are trapped and imprisoned by sin and are in need of a rescue. The fact that Jews were also under sin made them worthy of judgment just like the Gentiles.

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## **I. SIN IS UNIVERSAL**

Romans 3:9-12

10 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: 11 There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.

Paul then goes through a list of Old Testament quotations that describe humanity's fallen condition. The method of stringing together verses, or "pearl stringing," was very common in first-century Judaism. This method was often used in synagogue exhortations and can be seen in some Dead Sea Scroll writings, which were written before and around the time of Christ. Now Paul uses this technique of pearl stringing to deal with an anticipated objection: Although Jews are not perfectly righteous, they are better in God's sight than Gentiles.

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## **I. SIN IS UNIVERSAL**

Romans 3:9-12

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By introducing them with the phrase "As it is written," Paul points toward the Word of God as his objective support for the claim of humanity's sinfulness and not his own subjective speculation.

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## **I. SIN IS UNIVERSAL**

Romans 3:9-12

10 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: 11 There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.

He quotes [Psalm 14:3](#), which states there is none righteous (Gk. *dikaios*, **DEE-keyeose**). This word means to be right with God and to act justly. It holds the idea of being in alignment with or conformed to His will in thinking, feeling, and acting. This lack of righteousness is expressed in that no one "understandeth" (Gk. *sunemi*, **soon-EEay-me**), meaning "to understand," with the image of someone bringing together their perception with the thing perceived. They see the creation, they see good and evil, but cannot understand that they owe their loyalty and allegiance to a Creator. Not only this, but there is none who "seeketh" (Gk. *ekzeteo*, **ek-zay-TEH-oh**), or searches out and craves, for God.

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## **I. SIN IS UNIVERSAL**

Romans 3:9-12

12 They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.

Paul continues to describe the human race and states that we have all "gone out of the way." This is actually one compound word in Greek, *ekklino* (**eh-KLEE-no**), and means to turn aside or deviate from a path. In other words, the Lord has given people the right path and they have intentionally chosen to follow another path. Paul further adds that they are unprofitable (Gk. *achreioo*, **ah-kray-OH-oh**), which also means useless or unserviceable. This leads into the next phrase which states conclusively: "There is none that doeth good, no, not one."

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## **II. SINFUL DEEDS**

Romans 3:13-18

No one is born a Christian. Rather, everyone is born in iniquity. In fact, Paul contended, nearly from the beginning of God's creation, humankind began corrupting creation and that God's retribution will surely come ([Romans 1:20-23](#)). Now Paul shows from the Jewish Scriptures how this inclination to sin applies to not only the Gentile world but also to the Jewish people.

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## **II. SINFUL DEEDS**

Romans 3:13-18

Verses 13-18 cite specific verbal and physical deeds for which we will be held accountable. These include deceit, cursing, shedding blood, and other acts of destruction. The problem lies in the fact that sinful acts reveal that people do not truly fear God (v. 18), and thus fail to honor Him by committing such deeds. This adds on to Paul's case that the Jews are no better than the Gentiles in the sight of God.

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## **II. SINFUL DEEDS**

**Deceit, Lies, and Bloodshed**

Romans 3:13-18

**13** Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips: **14** Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness: **15** Their feet are swift to shed blood.

This list of proof texts is based on "gezerah shavah," a rabbinical principle which linked Old Testament texts by key words. The key words here are the parts of the body. Paul lists Scriptures that mention the throat, tongue, lips, mouth, and feet. In other words, when one yields to the control of sin, the whole body from head to toe is subject to the power or influence of sins.

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## **II. SINFUL DEEDS**

**Deceit, Lies, and Bloodshed**

Romans 3:13-18

16 Destruction and misery are in their ways: 17 And the way of peace have they not known:  
18 There is no fear of God before their eyes.

To further demonstrate his point Paul quotes [Isaiah 59:7-8](#) to show that their sins are not only restricted to their body but extend in violence toward others. The passage in Isaiah actually points toward the need for a mediator and how God's own arm brought salvation (vv. 17-20). While the Isaiah passage shows God the Father coming with salvation, Paul would use these quotations as his argument in Romans to show how God brought salvation through Christ. This is because Christ is God Himself according to the orthodox belief in the Trinity ([John 1:1-3](#)).

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## **II. SINFUL DEEDS**

**Deceit, Lies, and Bloodshed**

Romans 3:13-18

**16 Destruction and misery are in their ways: 17 And the way of peace have they not known:  
18 There is no fear of God before their eyes.**

Paul wraps up this list of quotations with a literary device called inclusion. The "there is no" herein verse 18 echoes the "there is none" refrain in vv. 10-11. This is done purposefully to show the finality of the reality of sin in the unbeliever. Ungodly people are both destructive and will be punished with destruction. It is the final nail that drives home the point that all are deserving of God's judgment under sin. All sinners and unbelievers will face this judgment if they do not forsake sin and turn to God.

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### **III. SIN EXPOSED**

Romans 3:19-20

While the Jews rejoiced in their relationship to the Law, Paul pointed out that the Law had one purpose: to expose sin. The "knowledge of sin" becomes clear under the Law's requirements, as does the truth that no one can live up to them. Neither Jews nor Gentiles are righteous before God, hence our need for a Savior.

This points to later in the passage where Paul presents Jesus as the solution to sinful mankind's dilemma (vv. 23-24). Although we cannot be justified through the Law, we are shown our need for the only one who can justify us-Jesus. Thanks to Jesus, our sins are judged by God on the Cross and His blood gives us forgiveness of sins.

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### **III. SIN EXPOSED**

**Consistent Grace**

Romans 3:19-20

19 Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.

Those under the Law are Jews and their knowledge of sin is given so "that every mouth may be stopped. "This illustration was taken from the law courts; those who were silenced had no reasonable defense. Paul points toward the Jewish understanding that all people sinned and were therefore in need of grace. The Jewish religion of Jesus' day theoretically knew of the need for God's grace; this was not the issue Paul was contending for. His main point is for the Jews to be consistent.

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**III. SIN EXPOSED**

**Consistent Grace**

Romans 3:19-20

19 Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.

If grace was needed for the Jews to be saved, then it will also save the Gentiles. Both groups would be saved by grace, not works of the Law. The picture of a law court continues as Paul states that the whole world would be guilty (Gk. *hupodikos*, **hoo-PO-dee-koce**) before God. The compound parts of the Greek word mean to be "under judgment," the logical result for a world that is "under sin." The word often refers to someone who lost his suit or became a debtor. This is an adequate picture of those under sin without Christ.

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### **III. SIN EXPOSED**

**Consistent Grace**

Romans 3:19-20

20 Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

The implications of Paul's argument for humanity's guilt before God are seen in verse 20. Through the deeds of the Law, no one can be justified (Gk. *dikaioo*, **de-keye-OH-oh**), which means to be rendered and pronounced righteous. On the contrary, through the Law comes the knowledge (Gk. *epignosis*, **eh-PEEG-no-sees**), the precise and accurate acknowledgment, of sin. His point is that while those who do not have the Law know sin only in their conscience, those under the Law know exactly what wrong they have done. They have experienced the full meaning of sin: transgression of the Law.

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# **LIGHT ON THE WORD**

## **An Ideal Missionary**

As a Roman citizen and former Pharisee, the Apostle Paul was an ideal choice of missionary to teach on such issues as sin, salvation, and grace. While doing so, he refuted potential arguments, providing keys to a victorious, faith-based Christian life.

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## **BIBLE APPLICATION**

AIM: We will accept that Christians should take personal responsibility for their role in sin and turn to God for repentance.

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## **BIBLE APPLICATION**

Some people believe their good deeds will get them to Heaven. Thus, they often cite their charitable giving, volunteerism, or fulfillment of local laws as reasons they are "good people." On the other hand, some people always seem to blow it and feel unworthy of God's love, and thus delay making a decision for Christ. How does Romans 3:9-20 address both types of people? What would you say to either if they said, "I don't need to be saved"?

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## STUDENT RESPONSES

AIM: We will affirm that Christians are excited to know that if they sin, God is faithful and just to forgive them and cleanse them from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9).

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## **STUDENT RESPONSES**

Verbal abuse has received more attention in recent years than ever before. Yet many individuals still don't view it as a "big" sin. Paul underscored the fact that sin is sin, and that everyone sins. Ask God to show you ways your words could be more Christ-like.

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# Prayer

Dear God in Heaven,

We know that we are sinners saved by Your precious grace. What a joy divine that You love us have given us Jesus Christ. Forgive us and keep us each and every day.

In Jesus' Name we pray.

Amen.

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Next Sunday  
July 19, 2026

Lesson 7

“God Sets Things Right”

Romans 3:21-31