

(Romans 2:17 - 3:20)

Aspect	Scripture References	How	What	Where	When	Why
None Righteous	Romans 2:17-3:20; Psalm 14:1-3; Psalm 53:1-3; Ecclesiastes 7:20; Isaiah 64:6	Paul uses these scriptures to affirm the universality of human sinfulness. He systematically shows that all people—Jews and Gentiles—are guilty before God.	Paul argues that both Jews and Gentiles are under the power of sin and that none are righteous before God. He references Old Testament passages to support his claims, demonstrating that humanity's fallen state is a consistent biblical teaching.	Addressed to the Jewish believers in Rome, and applicable to both Jews and Gentiles. This teaching is relevant to everyone, regardless of ethnic or religious background, as sinfulness is universal.	This truth is timeless and applies to all generations. Humanity's sinful nature and inability to achieve righteousness on their own have been realities since the Fall in Genesis and will continue until the ultimate redemption in	Paul's purpose is to dismantle any illusions of self-righteousness . Jews who relied on their heritage, the Law, and circumcision were being shown that these privileges do not make them righteous before God. The Law reveals sin and our inability to fulfill it. This leads to the necessity of justification by faith in Christ. Paul is setting the stage to explain the gospel of grace and the need for divine intervention.
No One is Without Sin	Ecclesiastes 7:20: "Surely there is not a righteous man on earth who does good and never sins."	Solomon acknowledges the pervasive reality of sin. No one can claim to be without sin.	Even the most righteous individuals fall short of God's perfect standard. No one can achieve righteousness through their own efforts, no matter how good they are. This verse reinforces that human nature is fundamentally flawed.	Applies universally to all people—whether religious, moral, or irreligious—since everyone inherits a sinful nature.	This truth is applicable at all times because no person, past, present, or future, can claim to be sinless on their own.	Solomon's statement in Ecclesiastes highlights the futility of human attempts to achieve perfection. It emphasizes the need for a divine solution to the problem of sin, which ultimately points to Christ as the perfect Savior who fulfills the righteousness we lack.
Our Righteous Deeds are Like Filthy Rags	Isaiah 64:6: "We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away."	Isaiah illustrates that even the best efforts of humans to be righteous are stained by sin.	Human righteousness, when measured against God's holiness, is worthless and polluted. Even the most moral or religious acts fall short. The metaphor of "filthy rags" suggests that apart from God's cleansing, human deeds are tainted by sin.	Isaiah spoke to the people of Israel, but the principle applies to all humanity. The prophet's message points to the reality that no one can approach God on their own merit.	Isaiah's message was relevant in his time, but the principle of human sinfulness and the inadequacy of self-righteousness remains true for all ages.	This verse serves as a humbling reminder that salvation cannot be earned through good works. It highlights the desperate need for a Savior and the grace of God to cover human shortcomings. This prepares the way for Paul's later arguments on justification by faith and the need for a righteousness that comes from God.

The Universality of Sin	Romans 3:9-10: "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, as it is written: 'None is righteous, no, not one.'"	Paul sums up his argument by declaring that all are under sin, whether Jew or Gentile. No one is exempt, and no one can claim righteousness on their own.	The condition of sinfulness is not limited to any one group. Paul quotes from Psalms to show that the testimony of Scripture has consistently declared the fallen state of humanity. The universality of sin means that all people are equally in need of salvation through Christ.	The universality of sin means that every person in every place and every time is affected. This message applies everywhere, from Paul's original audience in Rome to today's global church.	The truth about human sinfulness is as old as humanity itself. It began in the Garden of Eden and will continue until the final judgment when Christ returns to restore all things.	This verse is the climax of Paul's argument on sin. It dismantles any illusion of self-righteousness and prepares the reader for his explanation of justification by faith. This is why Paul spends so much time in the early chapters of Romans emphasizing human sinfulness—to show the utter necessity of God's grace and the righteousness that comes through faith in Jesus Christ. The verse lays the groundwork for Romans 3:21-26, where Paul presents the good news of justification by faith.
The Law Reveals Sin	Romans 3:19-20: "Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin."	Paul clarifies that the Law was never intended to be a means of justification. Instead, it reveals sin and holds people accountable to God's standard.	The Law was given to show people the depth of their sin and their inability to meet God's perfect standard on their own. It silences any argument of self-justification because it exposes the reality of human sinfulness and the need for grace.	The Law was given to Israel, but its principles apply to all humanity. God's moral standards revealed in the Law show everyone's inability to achieve righteousness through their own efforts.	The Law's purpose remains the same from the time of Moses until now. It continues to reveal sin and point people to Christ as the ultimate fulfillment of God's righteousness.	This verse explains why the Law was given: to reveal sin, convict the world, and make people aware of their need for a Savior. The Law acts as a mirror, showing us our need for a righteousness that only Christ can provide. By understanding the Law's purpose, we avoid relying on it for justification and instead turn to Christ, who perfectly fulfilled the Law and offers His righteousness to all who believe.

Explanation of the Format:

- **Aspect:** Summarizes the key points in each section of Romans 2:17-3:20 and the corresponding Old Testament references.
- **Scripture References:** Provides specific Bible verses that support the key points being discussed.
- **How:** Explains how Paul and other biblical writers present the argument or principle being addressed.
- **What:** Clarifies what the text is saying, emphasizing the main message or theological truth.
- **Where:** Indicates the context or location (e.g., audience addressed, relevance to different groups, universal applicability).
- **When:** Shows the time frame for the principle's relevance or when it was written and applied.
- **Why:** Explains the purpose or reason behind Paul's teaching, emphasizing the theological and practical significance.