

**ROMANS SERIES NINE
TURNING FROM THE DARK SIDE**

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Romans 3:9-20; Rom. 3:23; I Tim.2:14; Matt. 6:14-15

Romans In Perspective: Romans is a book of good news. First we hear the proclamation of mankind's hopelessness without Christ. Then we hear the breathtakingly good news of Christ's death and resurrection for us. The unrighteous are declared and made righteous and a relationship of intimacy opens up with the Creator and Sustainer of the Multiverse!

In our passage this morning we look into the Dark Side of mankind. Let's remember to keep this Biblical teaching in perspective with the whole Book of Romans.

We all have secrets (*Post Secrets* by Frank Warren) which reveal the Dark Side.

● WE ALL TRAVEL ON THE DARK SIDE (Romans 3:9).

There are five primary words in the Bible for sin. Let's get a feel for some of the things that break God's heart and hurt our relationship with Him.

1. *Harmartia* (Romans 3:23) means "missing the target."

PS: "I'm with the only person I've ever been able to truly trust. He is the only person I have ever cheated on.

2. *Parabasis* (1 Timothy 2:14) means "to step across the line."

PS: "He wasn't cheating on you. But, since you chose to blame me anyway...he will be."

3. *Paraptoma* (Matthew 6:14-15) means "to slip."

PS: "There is reason to believe that I was a pre-honeymoon babyand evidence that my mother still has not forgiven me for this."

4. *Anomia* (Romans 6:19)

PS: "During college I worked at a restaurant where we took turns running the cash register. I stole probably about \$5,000 over those four years. Most of that money went towards the year I spent backpacking around Europe. I had a great time."

5. *Opheilema* (Matthew 6:12) describes a debt. It means a failure to pay what is due or to do what we should do. One basic Christian duty is to express love.

PS: "He's been in prison for two years because of what I did. 9 more to go."

● A HEAVENLY PERSPECTIVE REVEALS THAT THE DARK SIDE LOOKS TRULY DARK (Romans 3:10-18).

*10 "There is no one righteous, not even one;
11 there is no one who understands,*

no one who seeks God.
12 *All have turned away, (Isaiah 53:6)*
they have together become worthless;
there is no one who does good, (Mankind's righteousness is not the kind God wants.)
not even one.

We struggle here. It is hard to accept God's harsh and absolute estimation.

Jesus had the same opinion regarding Mankind. He did not mince words about the gravity of human sin:
Mark 7:21-23; Mark 10:18; and John 3:18-19.

In the next several verses (Romans 3:13-20) God made a close personal examination of mankind from head to toe. He was not impressed.

We will not question God's evaluation if we read the appropriate comments from Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount: Matthew 5: 21-22, 27-28, 31-32,38-39, and 43-44.

The closer we come to the heart of God the more we feel the weight of our sin. Notice Paul's personal evaluation from his conversion at age thirty to the end of his life at age sixty-four: "Apostle of Jesus Christ" in Galatians 1:1; to "Least of the Apostles" in 1 Corinthians 15:9; to "Chief of Sinners" in 1 Timothy 1:15.

● **SILENCE IS THE ONLY POSSIBLE RESPONSE TO GOD'S EVALUATION (Romans 3:19-20).**

The only solution to moving toward the "Dark Side" is turning toward the Light of Jesus Christ. He is longing for a pure, intimate, emotional and lasting relationship with us.

The Hebrew language uses three basic words to describe God's intimacy with us:

1. *Yada* means to know intimately. Jesus wants to have a relationship where He knows us and we know Him.
2. *Sod* means to disclose. Jesus opens up and makes Himself vulnerable to us.
3. *Sakan* refers to the motive behind the knowing. The reason Jesus wants to know us well is so that He may minister more effectively to us.

In Christ the Dark Side of Romans 2:10-18 is reversed.