The Sewer of Sinful Humanity!

I. Announce:
   A. Slide#1 Justice Conf.
   B. Slide#2 Prayer Opportunities: Sundays - Open Prayer in the Upper Room all 3 services. Tuesdays - Men’s Prayer in the Upper Room at 7 am. Wednesdays - Women’s Prayer in the Worship Room at 9:15 am. Saturdays - Persecuted Church Prayer in rm.119 at 7:30M.
   C. 2nd service: Chaplain Anthony Gallegos.
   D. 3rd service - Prayer for Varsity Men’s Soccer - going to playoffs.
   E. Slide#3,4 Andrew Lacasse: overseeing C & C.

II. Slide#5 Intro: The Sewer of Sinful Humanity!
   A. Story: Many are like the Hindu man who thought he had stored up for himself many good works, especially in that he was proud he never eats any animal substance. The missionary sharing w/him told him that is impossible because every time he drank water he was swallowing 1000’s of tiny living creatures. He did not believe it, so the missionary put a drop of water under a microscope for him. The man saw…and broke the microscope. This is how he dealt with the dilemma.
      1. Allow me this morning to place all of man’s goodness under the great microscope of the law of God.
      2. I just ask you to look & see that even 1 sinful thought, destroys one’s hope for salvation through your own personal goodness.
      3. Slide#6 Then you can choose to make things right with God Or, break the microscope!
   B. Last week: Paul was calling a Jew, a non-Jew, & non-Jews, Jews???
      1. A true Jew is a matter of the heart & not nationality or circumcision (or, religious affiliation)!
         a) We could liken it to many who have grown up in the church. Who hold their church membership or affiliation in one hand, & their baptismal certificate in the other!
      2. So, Paul heads off their most probable questions at the pass!

III. Slide#7-10 THE SEWER! (1-8)
   A. I think one of the worst jobs might just be…Sewer Diving!
   B. In vs.1-8 Paul deals w/4 objections which were raised against the gospel. (Rhetorical questions)
   C. Slide#11 [1] JEWISH ADVANTAGE? (1,2)
   D. Being born Jewish didn’t give them a right standing before God; but being God’s Covenant People did indeed give them certain advantages!
E. Much in every way – He mentions 1 here, but adds others later in 9:4.

1. Who are Israelites, to whom pertain the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the service of God, and the promises.

F. The oracles of God – The very Word of God.

1. The OT contains the inspired record of God’s faithfulness to His people.
2. It sets forth the law (God’s holy standard for living).
3. It records the prophecies & poetry that reveal God’s heart for His people.
4. And it foreshadows & foretells Jesus Christ.
   a) They were the recipients & guardians of such treasure!

G. We in Christian America have similar advantages, to the rest of the world:

1. We have the bible (actually, many translations most likely);
   a) Slide#12 [6,900 languages in the world; 2,500 have some or all of the bible;
      Leaving 4,400 w/o Scripture portions available; representing 634 million people!]
2. We’ve read what God is like;
3. What know what He requires for salvation.

H. Slide#13 [2] GOD’S FAITHFULNESS CALLED INTO QUESTION? (3,4)

I. Who were these who didn’t believe? See 2:5.

1. Remember last week(2:21-24) they proclaimed the law fervently to the Gentiles, but weren’t practicing it very well!
2. The sinful actions of humans do not nullify the faithfulness of God!
   a) They weren’t faithful in regard to God’s covenant.

J. (4) Certainly not – or, “let it not happen; by no means; God forbid; far from it; may it never be”.

K. So, God gave the Jews a special promise & position, but some of them are under condemnation. Doesn’t that mean God broke His promise & thus shown Himself unfaithful?

1. Certainly not! What it shows is there is no favoritism w/God.
2. The best proof of His absolute justice is that He punishes sin wherever he sees it.1

L. Slide#14 [3] IS GOD’S WRATH FAIR? (5,6)

M. God’s justice is pulled into question. - “The moral governorship of the universe was at stake in such an absurd charge.”2

N. Slide#15 [4] WON’T MY SINFULNESS HELP TO CONTRAST GOD’S HOLINESS? (7,8)

1 William Barclay, pg.52.
2 Shepherds Notes, pg.24.
O. So wait, don’t my lies cause the truth of God to abound to His glory? - So, why am I still being condemned as a sinner?

1. “God does not need our evil as a contrast to His goodness. Rather He wants our goodness as a reflection of His likeness!”

P. Paul simply responds…their condemnation is just/deserved.

Q. Summary thus far:

1. The Jews are a privileged people because of God’s covenant w/them.
2. The rejection of Him by a great number doesn’t nullify God’s promises.
3. The sinfulness of humanity doesn’t diminish the character of God.

IV. Slide#16 THE GAVEL OF GUILT! (9-18)

A. This isn’t Paul’s Pearl Necklace (like 1 Cor.13), but his Peril Necklace!

1. He quotes from Ps.14:1-3(10-12); Ps.5:9; 140:3(13); Ps.10:7(14); Is.59:7,8(15-17); Ps.36:1(18).
2. Here we lift the lid off: The Septic Tank of Sinful humanity! Or, the Toxic Tank of Transgressions.

B. But, why do we have to study this? Because...

1. How are we going to understand salvation, unless we understand what we have been saved from?
2. Why will we ask for mercy, if we don’t believe we deserve judgment?
3. How can we be thankful for the work of Christ, if we think we can work our way to God?
4. How will we be amazed by God’s grace, if we are not appalled by our sin?

C. Paul pronounces the verdict of Scripture upon man in his fallen human condition!

1. Slide#17-20 So I picture judges here...ready to let the gavel fall!
2. Are we(Jews) better than they(Gentiles)? – No, not better off, nor at a disadvantage.
3. All under sin – “not sins”, but under the power of the dynamic of sin! (i.e. old nature)
   a) Paul is this a new concept? Nope! - See Gen.8:20,21

   (1) Then Noah built an altar to the Lord, and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird, and offered burnt offerings on the altar. And the Lord smelled a soothing aroma. Then the Lord said in His heart, “I will never again curse the ground for man’s sake, although the imagination (intent or thought) of man’s heart is evil from his youth;

3 ibid, pg.24.
4 Adapted from Charles Swindoll, pg.55
D. Here the gavel falls 3 times! [on Man’s: *Character, Communication, Conduct*]
   1. The Septic System of mankind is full, & we need to lift off the cover...“hold your breath, it’s going to stink!”
   2. Slide#21 Turgenev the Russian poet hit the mark when he said, “I don’t know what the heart of a bad man is like, but I do know what the heart of a good man is like... and it is terrible!”

E. Slide#22 [1] MAN’S CHARACTER IS DEPRAVED! (10-12)
F. (10) Are we sure Paul’s not talking about The FBI’s Most Wanted? or, one of Al-Qaeda’s Terrorists Camps?
   1. Nope! *no not one!* [Absolutely no one is righteous apart from Christ]

G. (11,12) In our natural, sinful state...
   1. We can’t...truly understand the things of God.
   2. We can’t pursue a relationship w/Him (*seek* after)
   3. We can’t stay on the right road (*turned aside*)
   4. We can’t stay pure (the word *unprofitable* literally means, we’ve all *turned sour like milk*)
   5. We can’t *do good*!
   1. **Do Good?** – Not that the unsaved can’t perform *acts of virtue*. Paul is talking about *good as God* defines good.
      a) Jesus said to the rich man, *Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God.*

H. Slide#23 [2] MAN’S COMMUNICATION IS DEPRAVED! (13,14)
I. Now from universal, to personal!
   1. He shows no part of our person is *unaffected* by sin.
J. Look how much emphasis he places on our *speech*.
   1. So, our *lying, cursing, cussing, gossip, idle talk, & bad jokes*, just reveals that...*sin camps in our hearts!*
K. Their *speech* is like the *odor* of an open tomb! [talk about Gingivitis]

M. Sin also manifests itself in our *actions*.
   1. It causes man to murder, destroy the lives of others, live w/o peace, & reject God instead of fear Him."^5

V. Slide#25 TOTAL DEPRAVITY...THE RECAP! (19-20)
   A. *Not*, we are all *as bad* as we possibly can be; *but*, that we are sinful *through & through!*

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^5 Charles Swindoll, pg.53
1. **Slide#26** Addison Leitch said, “if the color of sin were blue, every aspect of us would be some shade of blue!”

B. It deals with **extent** more than **degree**!

1. Even the most clean-living person is *shot through* w/sin.
2. That’s our **nature**; that’s how we are **born**; we are morally ruined at our very **root**.
   a) Ps.51:5*(NIV)* Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.
   b) So, it means we are **utterly incapable** of taking one baby-step toward God, w/o His miraculous Grace!!!

C. **Prop** (water bottle): This is **pure drinking water**. But if I take an eye-dropper & add a few drops of **raw sewage**, then shake well. Would you drink it now? (no way!)

1. It might look pure. It might not be as dirty as it could be, but it is contaminated through & through. There is no part that is not polluted.
2. And, there is no way it can purify itself...w/o undergoing some kind of outside purification process! [i.e. chlorine to shower water in Haiti]

D. *Verses 10-17* lead up to the final **culmination & condemnation** of vs.18.

1. The **fear of God** is completely left out of their thinking!

E. This sounded like a Courtroom!

1. The **Accusation** (9) All are under sin.
2. The **Evidence** (10-18) No righteous, not even one.
3. The **Courtroom Setting** (19) Every mouth silenced.
4. The **Verdict** (20) *Read whole verse*.

F. **Slide#27** **EVERY MOUTH STOPPED!** (19,20)

G. (19) Every mouth stopped…all the world guilty!

H. (20) The law “reveals” sin, but doesn’t wash any away!

1. Purpose of the law? To guide conduct, not to provide a method to stand before God in our own righteousness.

I. **We have to end here today**…but it doesn’t end here, Praise God!

1. For as it ends here as God as Judge it picks up next week as...He is also our Savior!
   a) He who **shows** us our sin through the Law…also **removes** our sin through Christ!
   b) He allows us to trade in our **prison clothes** for a **shining robe** of righteousness! (Swindoll)

J. **Slide#28,29** **End**: Ok, so your choice. Will it be…

1. You’ll choose to **make things right with God**; Or, break the microscope!