

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!**"³

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?**⁴

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...**
- We can't...truly understand the things of God.
 We can't pursue a relationship w/Him (seek after)
 We can't stay on the right road (turned aside)
 We can't stay pure (the word unprofitable literally means, we've all *turned sour like milk*)
 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]
- L. **Slide#24 [3] MAN'S CONDUCT IS DEPRAVED!** (15-18)
- 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!**

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 w/**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. (18) **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!**