



### **Part 3: Why So Much Evil and Hatred in the World?**

**Paul identifies 3 sources of human evil:**

**1. The \_\_\_\_\_ person (1:18-32)**

- **Revelation (18-20)** “God’s invisible qualities are clearly seen in nature”
- **Response (21-25)** “they worshipped & served created things rather than the Creator.”
- **Result (25-32)** “they became filled with every kind of wickedness...”

**2. The \_\_\_\_\_ person (2:1-16)**

**Four truths about judging:**

- When I judge, I \_\_\_\_\_ others and \_\_\_\_\_ myself (vs. 1)
- My own judgmental attitude will itself \_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 3-5)
- Why not judge others? Because it is \_\_\_\_\_ (2:2, 6-16)
- God’s judgment is \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 6-16)

**3. The \_\_\_\_\_ person (2:17-29)**

**Five characteristics of the “religious” person:**

- Rely on \_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 17a)
- Believe they have \_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 17b)
- Look \_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 18-20)
- Don’t \_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 21-23)
- Depend on \_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 25-29)

**Result: \_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 24)**

The point: Whether you’re rebellious, respectable, or religious, we’re all in the same boat!

The basic problem: \_\_\_\_\_  
*“But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known... This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.” Rom. 3:21-24*

### **Daily Meditations**

Here’s a chance to “take it home”: Spend a few minutes every day reading Scripture, praying, and answering thought-provoking questions about this weekend’s topic!

This week’s memory verses: *“This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.” Rom. 3:22-24*

### **Monday**

Read back over Romans 1:18-32, and all of chapter 2. What points from the message or this text stand out for you?

At first glance, this seems a very depressing part of the Bible, until you realize Paul is merely describing the symptoms of the disease we all see in the headlines and our own lives everyday --the rest of Romans is all about the cure! Read Romans 3:9-18. How is this the conclusion for all Paul has said so far?

Read Romans 3:21-24. Why is this the only possible solution for humanity’s problem, as defined by Paul in chapters 1 and 2?

When did the reality of your own sinfulness and the power of God’s grace become real in your life?

What impact is it having on your life right now?

*Thank God for His powerful, loving solution to our common problem! Accept it personally today, if you haven’t yet.*

## **Tuesday**

Reread Romans 1:18-20. Also read Psalm 8:3-4; Psalm 19:1; and Psalm 139:13-15. What can be learned about God through nature?

Why then do people tend to “worship created things” rather than the Creator?

Why do you think we don’t we notice God’s witness in nature more often?

How can you increase the impact of God’s witness in nature in your own life?

*Spend time today focusing on God’s message to you through “what is seen” all around you.*

## **Wednesday**

Reread Romans 1:21-32. How does “freedom” to do what you desire actually become a trap?

When in your life have you experienced a “futile mind” or a “darkened heart”?

When has the freedom to resist God only ended up hurting you?

In reading through the list of sins in verses 29-32, how do you feel when you see that some of your own faults are listed right alongside the “really awful” sins others commit?

*Thank God today for his mercy. If you find yourself trapped in sin, there really is great news-- the whole rest of the book of Romans is about the cure! Read Romans 5:8. God loves you and has paid the penalty for your sin-- why? To draw you back to Him! Return to Him today-- by faith.*

## **Thursday**

Reread Romans 2:1-16. How are these people in the same boat as those in 1:18-32?

How has God’s kindness led you to repentance? Or do you take His kindness for granted?

Write down some of His kindnesses to you that make you aware of His love:

Do you see yourself more as a “gross sinner” (1:18-32) or a “respectable sinner” (2:1-16)?

Does it matter to God?

*Praise God today using the two things you wrote down. Ask Him to remind you each step of the day to have His praise on your lips at all times.*

## **Friday**

Reread Romans 2:17-29. The finger pointed at the Jews in verses 17-24 could also be pointed at you and me. How does that realization affect you?

When did your faith become more than a ritual? What helped to make that happen?

Does your faith ever slip into the “holier-than-thou” attitude described by Paul in these verses? When and how?

What religious symbols and rituals are twisted today like the crucifix was then?

*Even these devotions can become mere ritual! make this one a real time of prayer and praise. Worship God for His mercy!*

## **Saturday**

*Today, polish the memory verse at the top of the previous page, and read Romans 3 in preparation for the weekend services. Thank God for His mercy and grace, and pray that it will be explained clearly in the services this weekend! Pray that God will anoint all the teachers and worship leaders, and that many people would hear the message and respond! Thanks!*