

Unmasked **Romans 3:9-31**

It is not so much our sins but our good works that keep us from salvation.

I. Lost

The Scriptures agree, for it is written:

*There is no one who always does what is right,
no, not even one!*

*There is no one with true spiritual insight,
and there is no one who seeks after God alone.*

All have deliberately wandered from God's ways.

All have become depraved and unfit.

*Kindness has disappeared from them all,
not even one is good.*

*Their words release a stench,
like the smell of death—foul and filthy!*

Deceitful lies roll off their tongues.

The venom of a viper drips from their lips.

*Bitter profanity flows from their mouths,
only meant to cut and harm.*

They are infatuated with violence and murder.

They release ruin and misery wherever they go.

They never experience the path of peace.

They shut their eyes to the awe-inspiring God!

Romans 3:10-18

Now, we realize that everything the law says is addressed to those who are under its authority. This is for two reasons: So that every excuse will be silenced, with no boasting of innocence. And so that the entire world will be held accountable to God's standards. For by the merit of observing the law no one earns the status of being declared righteous before God, for it is the law that fully exposes and un.masks the reality of sin.

Romans 3:19-20

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II. Acquitted

Now, independently of the law, the righteousness of God is tangible and brought to light through Jesus, the Anointed One. This is the righteousness that the Scriptures prophesied would come. It is God's righteousness made visible through the faithfulness of Jesus Christ. And now all who believe in Him receive that gift. For there is really no difference between us.

Romans 3:21-22

For we all have sinned and are in need of the glory of God. Yet through His powerful declaration of acquittal, God freely gives away His righteousness. His gift of love and favor now cascades over us, all because Jesus, the Anointed One, has liberated us from the guilt, punishment, and power of sin!

Romans 3:23-24

III. Released

Jesus' God-given destiny was to be the sacrifice to take away sins, and now He is our mercy seat because of His death on the cross. We come to Him for mercy, for God has made a provision for us to be forgiven by faith in the sacred blood of Jesus. This is the perfect demonstration of God's justice, because until now, He had been so patient—holding back His justice out of His tolerance for us. So He covered over the sins of those who lived prior to Jesus' sacrifice.

Romans 3:25

Since there is only one God, He will treat us all the same—He eliminates our guilt and makes us right with Him by faith no matter who we are. Does emphasizing our faith invalidate the law? Absolutely not. Instead, our faith establishes the role the law should rightfully have.

Romans 3:30,31