



Calling deserters back to the gospel
Mark 14:72

NOVEMBER 8, 2009

THE GOOD NEWS OF OUR NEED

A l l H a v e S i n n e d a n d N e e d t h e R e d e m p t i o n o f J e s u s .

H e a r ☼

Read Romans 3.9-23

The letter to the Romans is all about the good news of our salvation. And if salvation is good news, then we must need saving; but from what are we saved? We will spend time this week considering our need. Spend this week reading the passage in Romans 3, and remembering all that we have seen Paul say leading up to this point. Remember, Paul started out in chapter 1 with the sin of the Gentiles – those outside of the Lord’s Church – and moved in chapter 2 to consider the sins of Israel – those who belong to the Lord’s Church. This section does two things for us: it shows us the universal scope of our need and the severity of our need. Look for the good news in this section of (largely) bad news.

L o v e ☼

Who are “we” and who are “they” in verse 9? Why is Paul’s answer to his own question so important here?

What kind of picture does Paul paint with his use of these Psalms? Is this how we normally view our sin?

When we hear that all “fall short,” we can tend to think of our sin as something passive or neglectful in us. How do vv. 10-18 portray our activity in our sin?

Is there any good news in this passage? Where do you see it?

P r o c l a i m ☼

Part of the good news in this section is actually in the depth of our need described in vv. 10-18. The fact that we are totally depraved and utterly helpless actually brings us better news when Jesus overcomes and meets all of our need in himself. Remind yourself and each other this week of the good news accomplished for us as we see it in vv. 20-21.

We often read Paul’s statements that “all are under sin” or “all have sinned” as references to every individual person being under sin. But, in the context of his argument, we might say that he intends more in these statements. He is certainly saying that all individuals are guilty of sin (clear in his citations from the Psalms in vv. 10-18), but in vv. 9 and 23 he is also emphasizing the point that both groups (those who know the Lord and those who do not) have a share in sin and guilt. Why is this significant in Romans?

Why is this significant for us?



