

Coming to Grips with Man's Wickedness

Romans 3:10-18

As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one. Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips: Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness: Their feet are swift to shed blood: Destruction and misery are in their ways: And the way of peace have they not known: There is no fear of God before their eyes.

VERSE	DESCRIPTION	MAN DEPRAVED IN...	LESSON
10	“None righteous.”	Identity	Don't trust false claims.
11a	“None who understand.”	Thought-patterns and Mind	Don't trust man's wisdom.
11b	“None that seeks after God.”	Indifference and Rebellion	Don't assume sincerity in religion in natural man.
12a	“They are all gone out of the way.”	Path and Allegiance	Don't assume sympathy for the Christian cause nor a tendency to do right.
12b	“They are together become unprofitable.”	Uselessness	Don't assume God takes pleasure in any part of natural man.
12c	“None that does good.”	Practice	Don't be surprised when the world does nothing to our favor.
13-14	“Their throat are open sepulchres...their tongues have used deceit... their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness.”	Speech and message	Expect that “they will say all manner of evil against you falsely for My sake.”
15	“Swift to shed blood.”	Tendencies and Natural Inclinations	Don't give natural man the benefit of the doubt.
16	“Destruction and misery are in their paths.”	Associations and Lifestyle	Beware in associating with them!
17	“Peace have they not known.”	Lack of Godly Experiences	Don't trust in man's efforts, for they are not effectual by nature.
18	“There is no fear of God before their eyes.”	View of God	Expect corruption in any view of God apart from Scripture. Don't expect the Gospel to be attractive.

*These represent the norm concerning man's nature, and there will obviously be exceptions to some of the lessons we learn. However, should we forget these lessons and characteristics, it will be a great disservice to ourselves; for it explains a great deal when we look at the world through this lens and perspective.