

## SUNDAY MORNING

### Announcements

Mike Davis

### Song Leader

Daniel Allgor

### Lord's Supper

Bill Brittenham      Jack Calvert  
Jackie Jamison      Steve Rankin

### Prayers

Jon Barry      Preston Ellis

## SUNDAY EVENING

### Announcements

Mike Davis

### Song Leader

Cory Easley

### Lord's Supper

Bill Brittenham      Jackie Jamison

### Prayers

Mark Davis      Joseph Barry

## WEDNESDAY

### Announcements

Randy Ellis

### Song Leader

Jack Calvert

### Prayers

Gerald Eaton      Sonny Monaghan

### Invitation

Bill Brittenham

## ABOUT US

### Elders

Jack Calvert      Rodney Ellis

### Deacons

Jon Barry      Bill Brittenham  
Mike Davis      Dave Massey

### Evangelist

Bryan Garlock

## SERVICE TIMES

### Sunday

Bible Study .....9:30 A.M.  
Worship .....10:15 A.M.  
Worship .....6:00 P.M.

### Wednesday

Bible Study .....7:00 P.M.

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## GOD'S PLAN FOR SALVATION

**Hear** the word of truth ..... Romans 10:13-17

**Believe** the truth..... Hebrews 11:6; John 8:24

**Repent** from all sins .... Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38

**Confess** the name of Christ ... Matthew 10:32-33; Acts 8:35-30

**Be Baptized** in His name ..... Mark 16:16;  
1 Peter 3:21; Colossians 2:12

**Walk** in newness of life and **be faithful** unto death ..... Romans 6:1-4; Revelation 2:10

# Think On These Things

Franklin Drive Church of Christ  
2301 Franklin Drive ■ Texarkana, AR 71854 ■ (870) 772-0746



Volume XXI

December 4, 2016

Issue 48

## Are There None Righteous?

Bryan Garlock

Paul wrote, "What then? Are we Jews any better off? No, not at all. For we have already charged that all, both Jews and Greeks, are under sin, as it is written: 'None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.' 'Their throat is an open grave; they use their tongues to deceive.' 'The venom of asps is under their lips.' 'Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness.' 'Their feet are swift to shed blood; in their paths are ruin and misery, and the way of peace they have not known.' 'There is no fear of God before their eyes.' Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God..." (Rom. 3.9-19)

From a casual reading, this passage has given many people trouble, including this writer. It is especially difficult to reconcile these words with our lives. For instance,

this writer believes he often does good and he has certainly never had "feet swift to shed blood"! Therefore, what is the apostle's point?

Many have read into the text something that is simply not there. For instance, many believe Paul is speaking of total hereditary depravity (a tenet of Calvinism) which teaches that we supposedly inherited Adam's sins, are totally depraved in mind, and can do no good. However, that is easily dispelled in the text. Notice that everything in this passage is learned, not inherited.

The people Paul wrote about "have turned aside", "have become worthless", "they use their tongues to deceive", their mouth is full of curses and bitterness", "their feet are swift to shed blood", and "there is no fear of God before their eyes". Since they "have turned aside" and "have become worthless", we can be confident that they were not "born aside" or "born worthless".

Eliminating the "hereditary" portion, let us deal with the matter of our supposed

## FAMILY TALK

**Gladys Winters** is home and continues to recuperate from her knee surgery.

**Joey Avance** had an appointment at UAMS in Little Rock on Friday.

Remember **L. G. Clemmons, Willie Margaret Mobley, Bob Buls, Mary Jamison** and **Max Thomas**.

**Directory:** Any who want a new picture in the directory (especially those with children), please either send Bill Brittenham a picture or see him at the building to have a new one made.

We are thankful for the safe return home of all our members who traveled over the holidays.

It's the season for coughs, sniffles, colds and other afflictions. Please check on those who are not at services and see if there is something we can do to help.



**SINGING this Wednesday.**

**Front Page Article** (concl.)

"sinful nature". Some theologians say we are totally depraved and can do no good. They say we couldn't do the good if we would and we wouldn't do the good if we could. However, Paul's words easily refute this kind of thinking. As noted in our text, they have turned aside and have become worthless. One who is totally depraved cannot turn aside and become worthless. He is already aside and already worthless!

There are many other passages in Romans that refute this idea. Notice in our text that every member of the body is used for sin: throats, tongues, lips, mouth, feet, eyes and, as implied, hands. Paul said concerning this, "Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness" (Rom. 6.12-13). Interestingly, we learn that we are to use our bodily parts for righteousness, not unrighteousness. Our tongues are not to be used to deceive and our mouths are not to spew bitterness. Our feet are not to be swift to shed blood and our eyes are not to look upon evil things. This demonstrates our choice also known as free will. If one can choose to do good or evil, this person is not totally depraved nor is he unable to do good.

Furthermore, if we cannot do good then we are not engaged in a spiritual battle. Where is the spiritual war between good and evil if all are bent on doing evil? Why include all the passages teaching us to put away the things of the flesh and walk by the spirit (Rom. 6-8; Gal. 5.16-23, etc.)? The simple fact of the matter is that we can choose good and abstain from the works of the flesh, yet so many of us choose evil.

This helps to explain our text. Paul began his letter to the Romans convicting the Gentiles of sin. These people chose to exchange the truth for a lie and rejected God instead of giving thanks and worship to Him. Besides this, their hearts became darkened because they suppressed the truth. (We ought to note here that these Gentiles were

not born totally depraved and with darkened hearts; they developed such attributes. Please read Romans 1.18-32.)

On the other hand, the Jews who thought they were God's privileged people and right with Him were shown otherwise. Paul wrote, "What then? Are we Jews any better off? No, not at all. For we have already charged that all, both Jews and Greeks, are under sin." They too were sinners. To prove such, Paul quoted from a variety of Old Testament passages with which they would have been familiar: Psalm 14.1-4; 5.9; 10.7; 36.1; 53.3; 140.3; and Isaiah 59.7-8. Generally speaking, what was true of those generations is true of every generation. However, Paul's intent was not to be universal (as if all are guilty of these sins) but general (what the society as a whole was like). Further, contextually speaking, David was writing about fools who said in their hearts, "...there is no God" (Psalm 14.1) and were generally wicked men. Together, these passages culminate into our text at hand. One of the purposes for Paul's revelation of these passages was because "...we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God" (Rom. 3.19). In other words, the Jews as well as the Gentiles had sinned against God and needed the Gospel (Rom. 1.16-17).

As to the dark descriptions of sin, Paul answers why none are righteous: "...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3.23). Since we have all sinned, we have all at one point or another rejected God, stopped seeking Him, turned aside,

etc. However, be assured that this passage illustrates the person who devotes mind and body to the things of this world. He has chosen not to obey God (Rom. 6) nor to walk after the spirit (Rom. 8), thereby not allowing grace to reign in his life (Rom. 5). While some of Paul's illustrations are true of many people, including God's children who have stunted their growth in Christ and turned back into the world, it does not have to define us. Instead we have hope. We have an answer to the fall of man. We have Jesus Christ. Paul beautifully stated that we are "justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus" (Rom. 3.24). In other words, "Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin" (Rom. 4.7-8). This man will devote mind and body to the will of God. This is the only way to be righteous in an unrighteous world (cf. Rom. 4.2-9; 2.4-10; 6.3-7; Rom. 10.9-10).  
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**And don't forget our WEB site.**

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