

# Vintage

## Week 2: Sin (Romans 1:18-3:20)

*As much as we hate to be judged, that is what we do all day long. Judging other people's character, choices, clothes, personality, driving, parenting, and pretty much everything else. In this section of Romans, Paul gives us an honest, unchanging standard for thinking about ourselves and for other people. (Warning: This message is not for the faint of heart!)*

A or D: Some sins are worse than others.

A or D: Because I am a member of church, I'll be saved.

A or D: When it comes to sin, I'm not as bad as \_\_\_\_\_.

A or D: The world continues to get worse in terms of problems and sin.

- Romans 1:18-22, 32 - *18 The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness, 19 since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. 20 For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse. 21 For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools...(long list of where sin takes people)... Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them.*

Natural Knowledge —> Suppress Truth —> Idols —> God let's fool go —>  
Shameful Depravity —> Promote & Endorse

Reality #1 - It's not ignorance that leads to sin, it's the **perversity** of the sinner.

- Romans 2:1-5 - *You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge another, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things. 2 Now we know that God's judgment against those who do such things is based on truth. 3 So when you, a mere human being, pass judgment on them and yet do the same things, do you think you will escape God's judgment? 4 Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, forbearance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness is intended to lead you to repentance? 5 But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God's wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed.*

Compare —> Superiority —> Complacency —>  
No Repentance —> Delusion

Reality #2 - When it comes to sin, God doesn't grade on a **curve**.

- Romans 2:17-25 & 3:9 - *17 Now you, if you call yourself a Jew; if you rely on the law and boast in God; 18 if you know his will and approve of what is superior because you are instructed by the law; 19 if you are convinced that you are a guide for the blind, a light for those who are in the dark, 20 an instructor of the foolish, a teacher of little children, because you have in the law the embodiment of knowledge and truth— 21 you, then, who teach others, do you not teach yourself? You who preach against stealing, do you steal? 22 You who say that people should not commit adultery, do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples? 23 You who boast in the law, do you dishonor God by breaking the law? 24 As it is written: "God's name is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you." 25 Circumcision has*

*value if you observe the law, but if you break the law, you have become as though you had not been circumcised....What shall we conclude then? Do we have any advantage? Not at all! For we have already made the charge that Jews and Gentiles alike are all under the power of sin.*

Revealed Knowledge —> Advantaged —>  
Pride —> License to sin

Reality #3: Being **religious** isn't a get out of hell free card!

- Romans 3:10-19 - *10 As it is written: "There is no one righteous, not even one; 11 there is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God. 12 All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one." 13 "Their throats are open graves; their tongues practice deceit." "The poison of vipers is on their lips." 14 "Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness." 15 "Their feet are swift to shed blood; 16 ruin and misery mark their ways, 17 and the way of peace they do not know." 18 "There is no fear of God before their eyes." 19 Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God. 20 Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God's sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin.*

Lack of understanding —> Lack of doing good—> Sinful thoughts & words —>  
Sinful Behavior —> Silenced

Reality #4: All have been weighed, measured and been found **lacking**.

- Titus 3:4-5 - *4 But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, 5 he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy.*
- 2 Corinthians 5:21 - *God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*

*"Lord Jesus, You are my righteousness, I am your sin. You took on you what was mine; yet set on me what was yours. You became what you were not, that I might become what I was not." - Martin Luther*

### **Points To Ponder**

1. What was the toughest section of this lengthy section on sin - was it that in the end everyone is in the same boat - unrighteous, or is it that you find yourself playing the comparison game but that doesn't make you better or righteous?
2. What was the most eye-opening verse or section when it comes to sin that you want to remember and cling to? To help you answer, consider the good purposes of the Law: 1) show us our sin (is their a sin you need to identify and wrestle with, 2) show us our need for Savior (is it that you had your eyes reopened that on your situation is hopeless on your own).
3. In preparation for next week, pause everyday to humbly confess your lack of righteousness but then also celebrate Jesus took our sin and gave you his righteousness.

***Homework: Read Romans 3:21-4:25***