**“GUILTY AS CHARGED!”**

**(Romans 3:9-20)**

**People like to think of themselves as basically good. Today’s text, however, presents an overwhelming case and a clear verdict that all people are sinners.  This is important because unless there is something to be saved from, there’s no point in the good news of salvation.  Paul presents this case in three parts:**

**The Arraignment (9)**

*“What then? are we better than they? No, in no wise: for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin”*

**The Indictment  (10-18)**

* **Mankind’s Works (10-12) → *Citing Psalm 14:1-3***

* **Mankind’s Words (13-14) → *Citing Psalm 5:9; 140:3***

* **Mankind’s Ways (15-18) → *Isaiah 59:7-8; Psalm 36:1***

**The Verdict (19-20)**

* **The Entire World is Guilty (19)**
* **The Entire World is Helpless (20)**

**“GUILTY AS CHARGED!”**

**(Romans 3:9-20)**

**Small Group Discussion Guide**

**1. Romans 3:9 declares that we “are all under sin.”  What does it**

 **mean to be “under sin?”  Why does mankind generally not believe**

 **that they are condemned sinners?  Aren’t we damaging a person’s**

 **self-esteem if we show them from Romans 3 that they are a**

 **sinner?**

**2. How comprehensive is God’s indictment of man’s sin in Romans**

 **3:10-12?  How can it be true that NONE understand, and NONE**

 **seek after God?  How might this truth affect how we present the**

 **gospel to unbelievers?**

**3. What physical parts of the body are mentioned in Romans 3:13-14?**

 **Why does mankind have such a problem with ungodly speech?**

 **How can we turn our wicked speech into godly speech?**

**4. Romans 3:18 gets to the root of the problem.  What does it mean**

 **to fear God?  Why do so many NOT have a fear of God?**

**5. Romans 3:19-20 declares God’s verdict on all humanity.  How**

 **would you explain this verdict in your own words?  Is this a**

 **hopeless verdict? Why or why not?**

**Digging Deeper**

**1. Paul shows the complete sinfulness of all mankind by citing 6**

 **different Old Testament passages in Romans 3:10-18.  Read each**

 **of these passages in their context and compare them with Paul’s**

 **use in Romans. Psalm 14:1-3; Psalm 5:9; Psalm 140:3 (note v.2,**

 **“heart”), Psalm 10:7 (note v.6, “heart”), Psalm 59:7-8 (note v.6,**

 **“works”); Psalm 36:1**

**2. Consider what Paul is saying in Rom.3:19-20 and compare to**

 **Romans 5:20a; 7:7; Galatians 2:16; 3:11, 24; Acts 13:38-39.**

 **Is Paul’s point clear to you?**

**3. Read through Romans 3:21-31 a couple times.  Re-write verses**

 **21-26 in your own words.  You can use a couple different**

 **translations to help.**