

What Does the Scripture Say about Our Need for a Savior?

Romans 3:9-20

“What then? Are we any better? Not at all. For we have already made the charge that Jews and Greeks alike are all under sin. As it is written: ‘There is no one righteous, not even one. There is no one who understands, no one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one.’ ‘Their throats are open graves; their tongues practice deceit.’ ‘The venom of vipers is on their lips.’ ‘Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness.’ ‘Their feet are swift to shed blood; ruin and misery lie in their wake, 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 says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God. Therefore no one will be justified in His sight by works of the law. For the law merely brings awareness of sin.” BSB

Jesus—the Only Way

If one believes in a works-based gospel or believes that they do not need a Savior; then they have not ever really understood the love that Jesus gave when He willingly laid down His life so that they could live. *“They went out from us, but they did not belong to us. For if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us. But their departure made it clear that none of them belonged to us”* (1 John 2:19 BSB).

A believer is not saved because they are better than an unbeliever but because they have recognized their sinfulness and need for a Savior. Jesus was the only One good and the only One that could ever impart His righteousness to us, by the power of the Holy Spirit and the washing of His Word.

“For I tell you that unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 5:20 BSB). It is only Christ’s perfect righteousness that was or could ever be excepted by the Father. Jesus defeated death when he rose from the dead, but without Him dying in our place, we would not have had any hope because our righteousness is not perfect but like filthy rags. *“Each of us has become like something unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all wither like a leaf, and our iniquities carry us away like the wind”* (Isaiah 64:6 BSB).