

THE ROMAN REVEALING
Theme: The Reign of Righteousness
From the Sermon Notebook of Dr. Doyce H. Nolan

SUBJECT: THE WORLD OF HUMANISM

SCRIPTURE: ROMANS 3:9-20

Sermon No. 8

Date: February 18, 2007

Introduction

“Well, I’m just human!” How many times have you heard this statement? How many times have you made this statement? Paul is going to tell us the truth about humanism.

Humanism is a belief that affirm the dignity and worth of all people, with the ability to determine right and wrong through human means, regarding human interest.

The main focus of humanism believes that the solutions to man’s social and cultural problems is within himself, rejecting the dependence on faith, and divinely inspired texts. Humanism clearly rejects any supernatural divine beliefs in resolving human affairs!
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Humanism#Religion>

Paul doesn’t turn to the scientist and pholosophers or renegade theologians for his description of humanism. He says, “If you want to know what God says about humanism, this is it!” In these verses we shall notice three areas of Paul’s message on humanism.

1. The World of Humanism as Charged Before God. 9
2. The World of Humanism as Convicted Before God. 10-18
3. The World of Humanism as Condemned Before God. 19-20

I. THE WORLD OF HUMANISM AS CHARGED BEFORE GOD. (9). What then, are we better than they? No, in no wise: for we have before proved both Jew and Gentile, that they are all under sin; The Bible declares the whole human race to be under the guilt and power of sin without any distinction and disputing!

1. The Human Race is Charged Without Distinction. (9a)

What then, are we better than they? The Bible declares that all of the human race is in the same boat! There is no difference between Jews and Gentiles, no difference between wise and unwise, no difference between red, yellow, black and white, there is absolutely no distinction, for all are under the curse of sin.

We are living in a day of class distinction! Man has divided us into the upper class, the middle class and the lower class. In doing so we have overlooked the problem that unites us! We are all sinners before a Holy and righteous God! The issue today is not the color of skin, but a matter of sin!! Sin is destroying our society, our homes, and our nation! *The human race is charged without distinction before a Holy God!*

2. The Human Race is Charged Without Disputation. (9b)

What then, are we better than they? No, in no wise: for we are all under sin; This is a positive and final statement that cannot be disputed! The word “under” that Paul uses, is the same word the Centurion used concerning his authority in Matt.8:9 **I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: and I say to this man, Go, and he goeth; and to another, come, and he cometh; and to my servant, do this, and he doeth it.** Paul uses this same word to say that lost man is under authority to sin. Sin says, go there and he goes; sin says, come here and he comes; sin says, do this, and he does it. Listen to me!! We are all under authority to sin and we stand guilty before Almighty God! To dispute this fact would be as

absurd as a man trying to convince that he was innocent of a crime in which he was caught red-handed!! *Not only is the human race charged without distinction and without disputation before God but also...*

II. THE WORLD OF HUMANISM IS CONVICTED BEFORE GOD. (10-18). *As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one....18 There is no fear of God before their eyes.* Paul now states the terms and reasons for the conviction of humanity against God in the areas of sinful depravity, sinful activity and sinful capacity.

1. Humanity's Sinful Depravity. (10-12) *As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: 11 There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. 12 They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.* Paul gets down to the nitty gritty now. We may not want to accept it, but the Bible teaches the total depravity of the human heart! Man has not only been affected by sin but he has been infected by sin! This truth is proven in these these three verses.

1) Man is Wrong in His Life. (10) *As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one.* In the beginning of the human race, God set down a divine principle that as long as man remained true and right he would be given a perfect relationship with God. That principle no longer exist! It has been destroyed by man's choosing to sin. Therefore, try as we might we cannot live righteous lives! There isn't a man in this place, there isn't a woman in this place, there isn't a boy or girl in this place who can live a righteous life!

This verse depicts God looking down from heaven in search of one righteous person, and the verdict is.. *There is none righteous,*

no, not one! God sees man in his guilt and corruption! *Man is wrong in his life.*

2) Man is Warped in His Mind. (11) There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. Paul says simply, that there is no desire on the part of the lost man to discover the good things of God. He is content walking out there on the streets of sin because he has no desire to worship God, he has no desire to understand God! *Not only is man wrong in his life but he is warped in his mind as to the things of God, but also..*

3) Man is Wayward in His Will. (12) They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one. Like the sheep that refuses to follow the leadership of the shepherd, man has gone astray and turned to his own way! Just as the lost sheep is useless and worthless, so man universally, has become unprofitable and good for nothing. All of the corruption and chaos today is the result of universal departure from God!

Man has acquired greatness in music, education, science and many other areas of culture, but as far as God is concerned all of man's achievements are not acceptable!! Man cannot pull himself up from sin by his own bootstraps! *Humanity's sinful depravity..*

2. Humanity's Sinful Activity. (13-15) Their throat is an open sepulcher; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips; 14 Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness. 15 Their feet is swift to shed blood; Paul says, alright, you won't believe that you are deprived according to the Bible's verdict, then look at your own sinful activity in three areas!

1) Man's Vile Thoughts. (13a) Their throat is an open sepulcher; The throat is described here as an open passageway to the corrupt heart from which comes all of the vile and offensive thoughts of man. Is there a man here, is there a woman here, is there a young person here who can say you never have had vile thoughts? May we all pray that the mind of Christ be my mind, and may Christ live in me day by day! *Vile thoughts produce..*

2) Man's Venomous Tongue. (13b-14) with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips; 14 Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness. Deceit, poison, bitterness and cursing comes from the tongue of the man who has not known the cleansing power of Jesus Christ!

The pangs of a deadly snake when folded back are absolutely harmless. But when the snake lifts up its head to strike, those pangs drop down and when the snake bites those sacks of poison behind the pangs release a deadly poison into the wound. You and I were born with the moral pangs of a snake! Everyone of us are capable of striking with deadly pangs when provoked to anger. *Vile thoughts and venomous poison creates..*

3) Man's Violent Temper. (15) Their feet is swift to shed blood. The thought here is that man does not hesitate to commit murder. In the year 2005 there were 16,798 murders in the United States, or one murder every 4 minutes. Murder has become so common that new terms have been invented to describe the methods of killing our fellowman. "Bump him off, rub him out, snuff him, take him for a ride, liquidate him." *United States Crime Rates 1960-2005.* If it were not for the grace of God working in me and you, we would be capable of committing murder!

3. Humanity's Sinful Capacity. (16-18) Destruction and misery are in their ways; 17 And the way of peace have they not known. 18 There is no fear of God before their eyes. In these verses Paul says that man is capable of destroying man and capable of disregarding God.

1) Man is Capable of Destroying Man. (16-17) Destruction and misery are in their ways; 17 And the way of peace have they not known. It seems that man is pronged to destroy man. At this very hour nation after nation is producing nucluar weapons and dirty bombs, many times more powerful then both the atomic and hydrogen bombs together, to destroy each other! At this present course, man will destroy man completely, unless God intervans through man's repentance! *Man is capable of destroying man...*

2) Man Is Capable of Disregarding God. (18) There is no fear of God before their eyes. Man has no regard to do the will of God! There is no place for God in government, there is no place for God in the home, the schools, nor the nation! God's very presence in this universe should inspire man to reverence Him, but God is disregarded by man! *The World of Humanism is not only charged and convicted by God...*

III. THE WORLD OF HUMANISM IS CONDEMNED BEFORE GOD. (19-20) Now we know that whatever things the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. 20 Therefore, by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight; for by the law is the knowledge of sin. Paul says that man is sentenced without excuse, without exception and without escape.

1. Guilty Man is Sentenced Without Excuse. (19a) Now we know that whatever things the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, Sinful man attempts a thousand ways of excusing himself for what he does. But when God reveals the evidence, it is so convicting that man's mouth is completely silenced, and he hasn't an excuse left! When the books are opened every one will be judged according to his works, and every man, every woman, every boy and girl who's name is not found in the Book of Life, will be cast into the lake of fire! Hell, if you please!! *Man is without excuse.*

2. Gulty Man is Sentenced Without Exception. (19b) all the world may become guilty before God. All the world is broken down on an individual basis. We don't have to wait until we die to find out where we stand in the judgement of God, we can know it now! The man, the woman, the boy, the girl that is without Christ is already condemned to Hell! The verdict of God at the Great White Throne Judgement will only verify what we already know here today! *Man is sentenced without excuse and without exception..*

3. Guilty Man is Sentenced Without Escape. (20) Therefore, by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight; for by the law is the knowledge of sin. Here man is taken down to the condemned cell to await excution! Here he is held in custody untill the hour of judgement and damnation! What a terrible picture! The Bible says without Christ no flesh will be justified!

Conclusion

John Newton was born of Christian parents and rebelled to the fullest. He ran off and joined the navy where he was publically whipped for stealing. He ran away from the navy and joined the

slave trade business. The ship he was on encountered a might storm at sea and became water-logged. This brought John Newton to his knees where he accepted Jesus Christ as Savior. He became a minister of God's word also wrote the words to "Amazing Grace".

At the age of 80, feeble and almost blind, his servant stood by his side bracing him, as he tried to read from his notes. Slowly he said, "Jesus is precious", he repeated it again, "Jesus is precious". His servant reminded him that he had already said that. John Newton, with every ounce of energy he had said, "I mean that Jesus is precious to me!" He collapsed and had to be carried out of the sanctuary. Amazing Grace!

My friend, do you know this amazing grace? Without this amazing grace you are charged. convicted and condemned before God! Bow before the foot of the cross, and accept His blood that was shed for the forgiveness of your sins!

Jesus is softly and tenderly calling you to salvation. Oh, my friend, don't rebel against his call!!