

III

A Guilty Verdict

ROMANS 3:9–20

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,¹⁰ as it is written:

- “None is righteous, no, not one;
11 no one understands;
no one seeks for God.
12 All have turned aside; together they have
become worthless;
no one does good,
not even one.”
13 “Their throat is an open grave;
they use their tongues to deceive.”
“The venom of asps is under their lips.”
14 “Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness.”
15 “Their feet are swift to shed blood;
16 in their paths are ruin and misery,

¹⁷ and the way of peace they have not known.”

¹⁸ “There is no fear of God before their eyes.”

¹⁹ 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. ²⁰ For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

ECCLESIASTES 7:20

Surely there is not a righteous man on earth who does good and never sins.

PSALM 14:1–3

The fool says in his heart, “There is no God.”

They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds;
there is none who does good.

² The Lord looks down from heaven on the children of man,

to see if there are any who understand,
who seek after God.

³ They have all turned aside; together they have become corrupt;

there is none who does good,
not even one.

READ | ROMANS 3:9–20

THINK ABOUT

In reading the text today, did you pick up on all the terms and phrases that indicated everybody is out of the boat: none, no one, not even one, together, no human being? If a relationship with God were described as being in the boat with Him, nobody would be able to go on the trip.

Nobody has a ticket. You can't earn one, and you can't buy one. The Judge's verdict is clear and right. All are under sin; every person has sinned and is guilty of disobedience to God. The evidence is inarguable. The list is long. There's no use trying to defend yourself; you're guilty. You're a sinner.

APPLY

It's always much easier to deal with our problems when we can blame others. You know how it goes. You may say, "The reason I hit my brother is that he took my game." No one makes us sin. We do it ourselves. Instead of obeying God and acting Christ-like, we choose to do what we want to do or make someone pay for not doing what we want them to do.

Learn how to own up to your failures. You may want to practice right now, "Hi, my name is _____, and I'm a sinner." The Bible has already pronounced your guilt. Only in Christ can you receive a pardon or forgiveness. God is much better to us than we deserve.

ASK

Why is it hard to admit when we sin?

Can you think of an example when you blamed someone for your bad choice?

How does it make you feel that God loves you even though you don't deserve it?

THE BIG IDEA

All people are sinners and therefore guilty before God. The Apostle Paul makes it clear that we are all depraved and have turned our backs towards God. The law cannot justify anyone.

KEY POINTS

All are equal in God's eyes (v. 9).

God gives us a description of the depravity of humanity (vv. 10–18).

The law is insufficient and unable to save us (vv. 19–20).

LIFE APPLICATION

The entire human race is equally sinful in God's eyes.

The characteristics of depravity are evidenced in all humanity.

The law reveals and highlights our sin, but it offers no resolution.

DISCUSSION

What causes some people to perceive themselves as superior to others?

What happens in your mind when you are faced with your own propensity to sin?

How can it be accurate to propose that "none does good"?

“A GUILTY VERDICT”

Romans 3:9–20

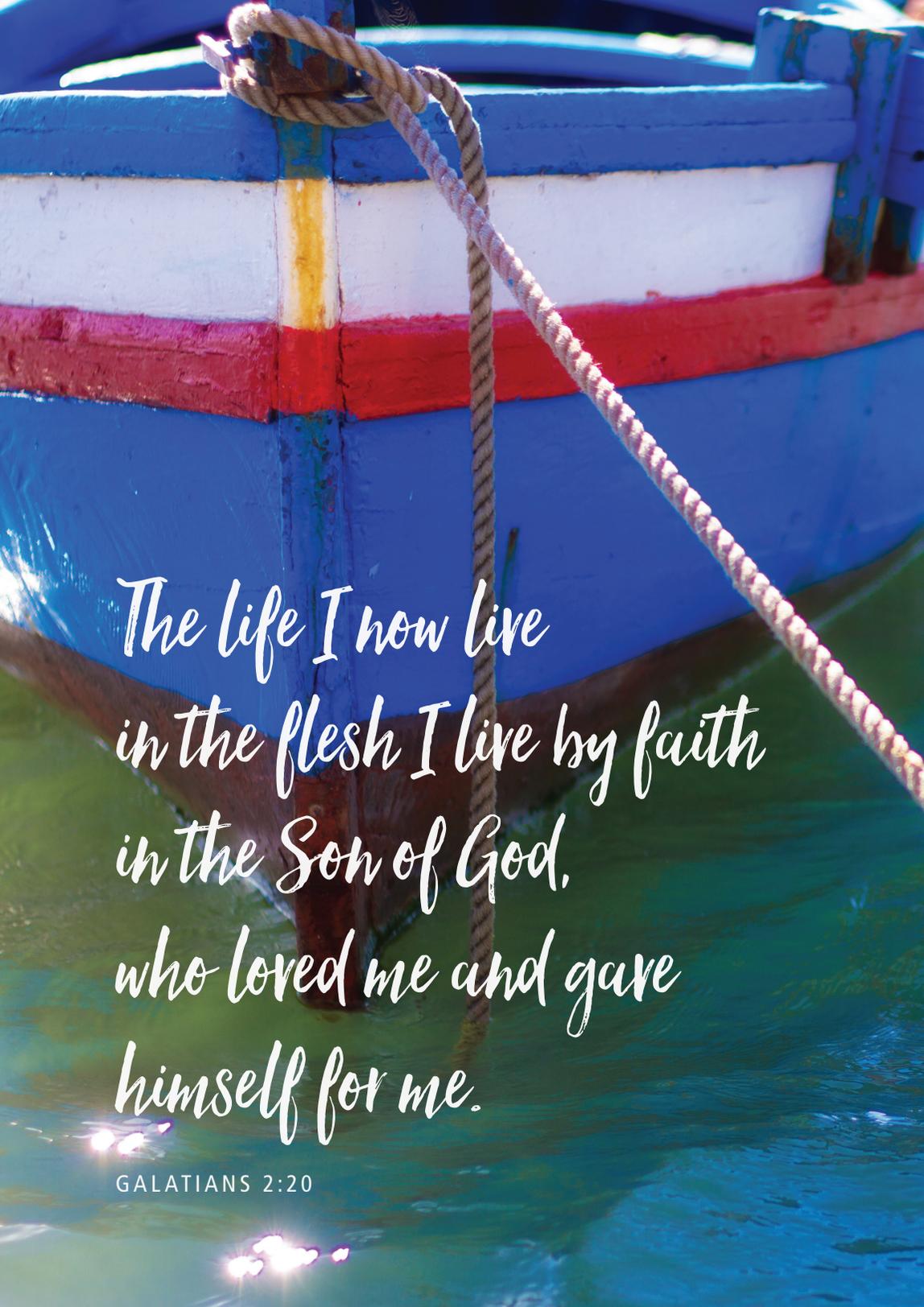
A series of horizontal dotted lines for taking notes.

RATHAPLENAMCCCCXCV



THE HEART IS DECEITFUL
ABOVE ALL THINGS, AND
DESPERATELY SICK;
WHO CAN UNDERSTAND IT?

JEREMIAH 17:9



*The life I now live
in the flesh I live by faith
in the Son of God,
who loved me and gave
himself for me.*

GALATIANS 2:20

