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# EQUIP

**What is a Christian – Small Group Session Four  
Week beginning 4th December**



# Every Mouth Silenced

Over the last two weeks, Paul has spent a remarkable amount of time exposing and analysing sin and showing how God's wrath at our sin is completely justified. It has been stupefying.

In chapter 1, he exposed what sin is really like - in the great God swap we worship things created by God rather than worshipping the creator Himself. We worship idols. Then, last week, in chapter 2 Paul has to counter all our excuses, the reasons we put up to avoid the reality of judgment... I don't deserve wrath, I am not as bad as them, I am a nice person really, I am a religious person... but, as we concluded last week, we are left with "no excuse" (Romans 2:1).

The striking thing this week is that Paul is not done yet. We might think come on, now time for the good news, just land us in Romans 3:21. But Paul doesn't. He predicts that his readers will still be trying to escape the consequences of what God's word says. So, for one last time, Paul answers the concerns of those who would seek to avoid this truth.

We do need to ask ourselves what it is about Paul's readers, the Christians in Rome (and also what is it about us), that means Paul has to so labour the point.

So now pray as you come to Romans chapter 3. Good news is coming in a moment and that good news will shine all the more brightly if we have followed the path to the darkest part of the cave first. Pray and then let's start to walk the path once more, it will produce a harvest in your life.

If you want a starter question ask, why do we find it difficult to believe we will face God's judgment? Be honest.

"There is no one righteous, not even one;  
there is no one who understands;  
there is no one who seeks God.  
All have turned away."  
Romans 3:10-11

# No one righteous

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## 1 More Excuses

At the end of chapter 2 we have seen we all face judgment and that there is no excuse, but the excuses keep coming. Read 3:1-7.

Three questions are raised (verses 1-2, verses 3-4 and verse 5-8). How does Paul answer each of them?

Why do Paul's questions matter? How might these answers challenge or help us?

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## 2 The Terrible Conclusion

Paul now finally concludes this section. Verses 9 and 19-20 are that conclusion. How would you summarise his conclusion?

In verses 10-18 Paul quotes extensively from the Old Testament to show that this is not some new teaching, but that this is what God has been saying for centuries. Read 10-18 slowly and let the force of the verses land.

How does this reality impact your feelings, your thinking and your world view?

In what ways do we forget these truths in every day life?

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## 3 But now... Righteousness Revealed

There is no need for a saviour, unless we need saving. By the time we get to 3:20 we should be feeling helpless, desperate, left crying out for mercy, in need of salvation. Now mercy comes. We looked at 3:21-26 in the first part of EQUIP. Read the verses together and let the light dawn in our darkness.

How might these verses have even more force looking at them now, given the road we have been walking since Romans 1:19?

Which particular aspect of verses 21-26 shines most brightly to you today?

It is Christmas time! Spend some time together in prayer, repenting of sin and thanking God for gifting us righteousness in Jesus.

