

Romans 3:9-20

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“...there is no one who seeks God.”

When one of our children was very young (we won't mention names) they wandered off while we were visiting Bass Pro Shop. A very large store and a very little child make for a very scary family outing. It was not our best parenting moment. It even got to the point that the doors to the store were locked down so that no one could get in or out. As parents we became very panicked and sought after our lost child. We looked everywhere and didn't give up until a worker located him in the bathroom. He was highly distracted by everything around him. He was not seeking us. We were seeking him.

To seek is to desire and obtain. It isn't passive. It is actively searching. We were actively searching for our child. We had a deep down, heartfelt desire to find him and make sure he was safe. Scripture makes it very clear that no one seeks after God, but in the same breath it is very clear that it is God who seeks after us - “For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save the lost.” (Luke 19:10). In Matthew 18, scripture tells us, “Won't he leave the ninety-nine on the hillside and go and search for the stray?” seeking after the sheep that is lost. For that reason, we needed a promise maker and a promise keeper. “Therefore, the Lord himself will give you a sign; See, the virgin will conceive, have a son, and name him Immanuel” (Isaiah 7:14).

Jews and Gentiles alike needed the promise of Immanuel. Not only do we as humans not seek Him, but we utterly rebel against God. In Romans 3:10-18 Paul states many reasons that we need Christ:

- No one is righteous.
- All have turned away.
- All have become worthless.
- No one does what is good.
- Our throats are an open grave.
- Their tongues deceive.
- Venom is under the lips.
- Mouths are full of cursing.
- Our feet are swift to shed blood.
- We have no peace.
- There is no fear of God!

We are all under sin. The law would not save. The law would condemn. We were not left there. A promise was needed. A promise was coming.

“See the virgin will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they will name him Immanuel, which is translated ‘God is with us.’ ” Matthew 1:23.