

GA: 6/12/94, Nicole Brown Simpson & Ron Goldman were brutally murdered outside Nicole's condo in LA. 6/17 Rockets vs Nicks a 45 min. low-speed pursuit by police w/Simpson as a passenger in the white Ford Bronco. Estimated audience of 95,000,000

SI: Trial of Century, likened Lindbergh kidnapping, culminated after 11 mos 10/3/95, when jury rendered a verdict & 100M heard "not guilty."

- 1) Did you ever think that would happen? We may be surprised –
Θ never is! **Isa 45:21** *Speak up & present your case—yes, let them consult each other. Who predicted this long ago? Who announced it from ancient times? Was it not I, the LORD? There is no other Θ but Me, a righteous Θ & Savior; there is no one except me*

SUM: **1:18-3:8** every Jew & Gentile has been proven guilty before Θ!

ORT: Is Paul through w/his case? – No! He has 1 last piece of evidence

CTX: Like a seasoned prosecutor Paul will present his last argument proving that man is hapless, hopeless & helpless w/o Θ

CIT: All are under power of sin & are answerable to Θ for their actions. NO HOPE except where this began: **1:16** *For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of Θ for salvation to everyone who believes, first to the Jew, & also to the Greek.*

TEXT: **Ro 3:9-20**

CIS: *Sin so fills us & rules us – that we are totally helpless to fix us*

PNP: 3 dreadful outcomes in the case of Θ v. man

- **CHARGE**

★ **9** What then? Are we any better off? Not at all! **For** we have already charged that both Jews & Greeks are **all** under sin,

No one is free from the rule (power, control) **of sin**

- **INDICTMENT** – charge from the prosecuting authority (Θ)

★ **10** as it is written:

- Perfect tense – completed state/permanence (ΘT eyewitnesses)

Ps 119:89 **LORD**, *Your word is forever; it is firmly fixed in heaven*

- That settles it – this stops every excuse – Θ’s Word is final
- Barrage of negatives & universals (all’s)

★ (**Ps 14:1**) *There is **no one** righteous, **not even one.***

- **v11a** His mind is controlled
- **v11b** His heart is controlled

Lk 19:10 *For the Son of Man has come to seek & to save the lost*

- **v12b** His will is controlled

★ **11 (Ps 14:2-3)** *There is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks ☹. **12 All** have turned away; all alike have become worthless. There is no one who does what is good, not even one.*

Sin fills (pervades, invades) **our whole existence**

• Last piece of **EVIDENCE** – Our autopsy from head to foot
Sin rises from w/in us – nnature or nurture? Environment? Twinkie?

★ **13 (Ps 5:9b)** *Their throat is an open grave;*

- We are dead **Eph 2:1** (*& you were dead in your trespasses & sins*) – only death can come out of their mouth

Sin affects our speech

★ *they deceive w/their tongues.*

★ **(Ps 140:3)** *Vipers' venom is under their lips.*

★ **14 (Ps 10:7)** *Their mouth is full of cursing & bitterness.*

- There is a connection between words & character

Mt 12:34b *For the mouth speaks from the overflow of the heart*

Condemned mouth can become Converted **Ro 10:9-10** *If you confess w/your mouth, "J is Lord," & believe in your heart that ☹ raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. One believes w/the heart, resulting in righteousness, & one confesses w/the mouth, resulting in salvation*

Sin affects the direction of our life

★ **15 (Isa 59:7-8)** *Their feet are swift to shed blood; **16** ruin & wretchedness are in their paths, **17** & the path of peace they have not known ^{mind}.*

Eph 6:15 *your feet sandaled w/readiness for the gospel of peace*

- The sinner prefers the lie over the truth **1:21, 25, 28**

21 *For though they knew ☹, they did not glorify Him as ☹ or show gratitude. Instead, their thinking became worthless, & their senseless hearts were darkened **25** They exchanged the truth of ☹ for a lie, & worshiped & served what has been created instead of the Creator, who is praised forever. Amen **28** & because they did not think it worthwhile to acknowledge ☹, ☹ delivered them over to a corrupt mind so that they do what is not right*

1 Cor 2:16 *For who has known the Lord's mind, that he may instruct Him? But we have the mind of X*

★ **18 (Ps 36:1)** *There is no fear of Θ before their eyes Pride.*

- **v17** caused by **v18** **Prov 1:7** *The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom & discipline*
- Condemnation comes by the Law, creation, & conscience
- Argue – every mouth stopped
- **VERDICT**
- The whole world is guilty before Θ !

You cannot justify (vindicate, make acceptable, fix) **yourself before Θ**

★ **19** Now we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are subject to the law, **so that every** mouth may be shut & the whole world may become subject to Θ 's judgment. **20 For (Ps 143:2) no one will be justified in His sight by the works of the law**, because the knowledge of sin comes through the law.

- **v20** is the reason for the verdict
- **Ro 2:13** true – but nobody can! *For the hearers of the law are not righteous before Θ , but the doers of the law will be justified*
- The law can only indict us – what can save us?

CIS: *Sin so fills us & rules us – that we are totally helpless to fix us*

CEP: Has your mouth ever been stopped? Are you boasting of your own self-righteousness & defending yourself before Θ ? Only when you stand before Him in silence as a sinner can He save you. If we commend & defend yourself, you cannot be saved.

- 1) **O**ur response to **Ro 1:18-3:20**. Bow down in thanks! **Lk 17:16** *He fell facedown at His feet, thanking Him. & he was a Samaritan*
- 2) **G**: Your response to **Ro 1:18-3:20**. Bow down in repentance! **Mk 1:40** *Then a man w/leprosy came to Him &, on his knees, begged Him, "If you are willing, You can make me clean."*