**Having no hope leads to our only hope: Romans 3:17-3:23**

**All unrighteous men are enslaved and we are all unrighteous. There is only one way out!**

**Intro: Two critical questions**

**1.**

**2.**

**My answer:**

**I. Review: Sinners in the hands of an angry God – Rom. 1:18-2:16**

**II. To the hypocrite: “You’re not as good as you think.” - 2:1-16**

**III. To the Jew: “You’re in trouble, too!” – 2:17-3:8**

**A. It’s what’s inside that counts - 2:17-29**

**B. It’s their fault, not God’s – 3:1-8**

**IV. To the world: “You got nothin’!” - 3:9-20**

**V. The only hope of humanity – 3:21-23**

**Romans 5:18 – Justification is a by-product of getting eternal life! (as is forgiveness, and the Holy Spirit)**

**Why such a large section on sin? Enslavement comes from God’s anger toward our idolatry. All are sinners, so all are enslaved. Since none are righteous, another kind (God’s) is our only hope. Freedom must start with the gift of righteousness.**

Theology in Romans

Word of the Week: Sin

Definition: **The Tony Evans Study Bible = “The failure of man to measure up to God’s perfect standard of righteousness, whether in thought, word, or deed.”**

**For many, it is a “violation of divine Law.” For others, it is anything that is contrary to the nature of God.**

Types of sin:

**Evans notes that human beings are sinners 1) By nature and 2) By personal choice.**

**NATURE: Ps. 51:5; 58:3; Prov. 20:9; Rom. 7:14, 17-20, 23-25; Eph. 2:1**

**BY ACTS: (personal choice) 2 Chron. 6:36; Isa. 53:6; Rom. 5:12; 1 Jn. 1:8**

Theology in Romans

Previous weeks: Wrath

Definition: **(General) Strong indignation directed at wrongdoing**

**In Romans: 1:18 = “Indignation against sin in the present” BDAG, Giving men over to sin (1:24, 26, 28), removal of grace**

**Salvation**

**Definition: (General) “To save or to deliver”; To be delivered from (something)**

**NOTE: There is not a fixed, technical meaning for this word and its related words!**

**In Romans: Deliverance (from the wrath of God) 5:9-10**

**“Usage determines meaning”**