

Guilty as Charged

ROMANS 3:9-31

Sunday, October 12, 2025 | Wawasee Bible | Milford, Indiana | Pastor Josh Weiland

No one is **PERFECT**, (3:9-20)

everyone is guilty 3:9-18 Ecclesiastes 7:20; Psalm 53:2-3; Isaiah 53:6

everyone knows it 3:19-20 1 John 1:8-10;

we *all* **FALL SHORT** (3:21-23)

God's righteousness 3:21 Psalm 145:17; Deuteronomy 32:4; Psalm 11:7

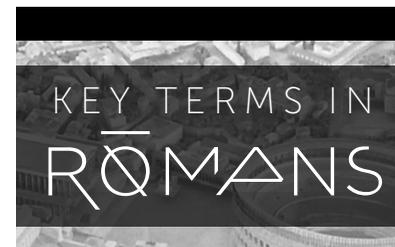
our shortcomings 3:22 Isaiah 64:6; Proverbs 20:9; Galatians 3:22

—but **PERFECT IS A GIFT** if you'll receive it. (3:24-31)

by grace alone — *our justification* 3:24-26 2 Corinthians 5:21; Ephesians 2:4-5, 8-9; Titus 3:5-7

through faith alone — *our union with Jesus* 3:27-31 Philippians 3:8-9; Galatians 3:26; John 3:16

We are sent to love people and invite them to follow Jesus with us.



Here's a few key terms that are helpful to understand in this week's passage:

SIN

The Greek word Paul uses (*hamartia*) is actually an **archery** term. It means to miss the mark, or fail to hit the target. Theologically it means to fall short of the target of God's glory and perfection, breaking our relationship with him.

PROPIATION

This is a **religious** term that Paul uses, and it means to "turn away wrath" or "to satisfy justice." Some translations will use the term "**atonement**", but propitiation may be better because it includes the idea of turning away God's wrath for sin. Jesus's sacrificial death satisfies God's justice, takes God's wrath upon himself, and makes us right with God.

JUSTIFICATION

Justification is a **legal** term that means "to be declared righteous." It is God's act of **declaring** a sinner "right" with him through faith in Jesus.

REDEMPTION

To redeem was to buy back or **set free** by paying a ransom—it was a term used in association with **slavery**. Our freedom from sin's slavery and death's penalty is purchased by Jesus's blood.

LAW

The "Law" refers to the 613 commands God gives through Moses in the first five books of the Old Testament (the Torah).

GRACE

The undeserved or unmerited favor of God.

RIGHTEOUSNESS

The perfect "rightness" of God in all things and in all of his ways. It is his total perfection.



Study Guide

Questions & Scripture for Further Study

What is this? — Each week people from Wawasee Bible meet in small groups in various homes to learn about Jesus, pray, eat, laugh, & live life together. **We call them Life Groups.** The questions here are based on the sermon each week (often a related part of Scripture), and guide each group's study. If you're interested in connecting with a Life Group, let us know on a Connect Card or at the Connect Desk!

Welcome to Life Group!

Getting to Know You

Part of our goal at Life Group is just learning more about each other. Toward that end, take some time to catch up with each other as you gather.

If it helps, here's a question to discuss and get you going. Have everyone answer:

Thinking about the sermon's idea that we all 'fall short' of God's perfect standard, what's one everyday 'miss' you've had this week—like in a conversation or decision—and how does knowing grace covers it make you feel?

Digging Deeper – A Bible Study

Use this guide for further personal and group study this week. For the most impact in your life and in your group, *work through it on your own before you gather with your Life Group.* If your Life Group isn't gathering this week, use this guide for further study personally.

- Looking back at your notes from this week's message, was there anything you heard for the first time or anything that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?
- Sin not only separates us from God, but from all of the most important relationships in life: God, each other, even a right knowledge of ourselves. In what ways have you seen this separation happening in the world around you? How about in your own life?
- The universal problem we all have is that we are sinners, and as a result, separated from God and dead spiritually. Spiritual death is not necessarily a feeling people have but a condition they are in. How do the following passages describe what it means for someone to be spiritually dead?

Ephesians 2:1-3

Titus 3:3

Colossians 3:5-7

- Have there been any times in your life when the realization of your own sinfulness and God's forgiveness particularly caught your attention?

(Study Guide continues on back panel...)

At Wawasee, each of us is growing to increasingly live out these four roles as we follow Jesus together.



Secure Son/Daughter

I live each day increasingly confident in being a loved child of God—resting in grace, not striving to achieve approval.



Courageous Connector

I cultivate honest relationships that cross barriers and create belonging—even before belief.



Ready Storyteller

I live each day with a sense of sentness, ready to reveal my story and God's story.



Legacy Builder

Because of Jesus, I multiply what has been given to me by spiritually investing in others for kingdom impact.

Word Find in the **Word**

Find the words from a passage related to this week's message.

Word Find: Romans 3:20-24 (NLT)

Find the words **bolded** below.

²⁰ For no one can **ever** be **made right** with God by **doing** what the law **commands**. The law **simply shows** us how **sinful** we are. ²¹ But now God has **shown** us a way to be **made right** with him without **keeping** the **requirements** of the law, as was **promised** in the writings of **Moses** and the **prophets long ago**.

²² We are **made right** with God by **placing** our **faith** in **Jesus Christ**. And this is **true** for **everyone** who **believes**, no **matter** who we are.

²³ For **everyone** has **sinned**; we all **fall short** of God's **glorious standard**.

²⁴ Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us **right** in his sight. He did this through **Christ Jesus** when he freed us from the penalty for our **sins**.

A U C P S T A N D A R D
E V E R I G H T L K E C
P P R O P H E T S E Q O
J L F M A T T E R E U M
E A S I M P L Y N P I M
S C I S P H P I M I R A
U I N E V E R Y O N E N
S N S D S H O W S G M D
H G M O B E L I E V E S
O F A I T H T C S Q N H
W A D N E C H R I S T O
N L E G L O R I O U S R
R L O N G T R U E I G T



life groups

Study Guide (continued)

- What does it look like to balance an awareness of and sadness for our sin with the joy of being a “new creation” in Christ (**2 Corinthians 5:17**) who is loved and forgiven?
 - Can you think of any potential pitfalls for someone who doesn't spend any time thinking about their sin and the impact it has had on their relationship with God?
4. Although God has dealt with the separation that our sins have caused in our relationship with him, the impact of those sins, and the sins done to us by others often continues to affect us. How could the following passages help us to continue to heal from the scars left by our sin.
- James 5:16 Hebrews 4:14-16 Hebrews 10:23-25**
- The story of our life before we experienced God's love and forgiveness can either be Satan's greatest weapon to keep us living in guilt and shame, or God's most powerful tool for us to serve him. What do you think a person needs to do or experience before being willing to allow God to use their story as a tool?
5. In **Luke 7:36-50**, Jesus had a conversation with a woman who interrupted a dinner he was having with a religious leader. How does this conversation help you better understand the connection between experiencing forgiveness and expressing forgiveness?
- Can you think of any ways a person can gain a greater appreciation for the grace and mercy God has for us?

Taking it Home

6. God wants to use the story of your past as a tool for sharing his love and forgiveness with other people. Can you think of anything you might need to do in order to allow him to do that?
7. We all have people in our lives who haven't recognized they have the universal problem of sin and therefore haven't accepted the universal cure—Jesus. Which ones would you like to have the group pray for?

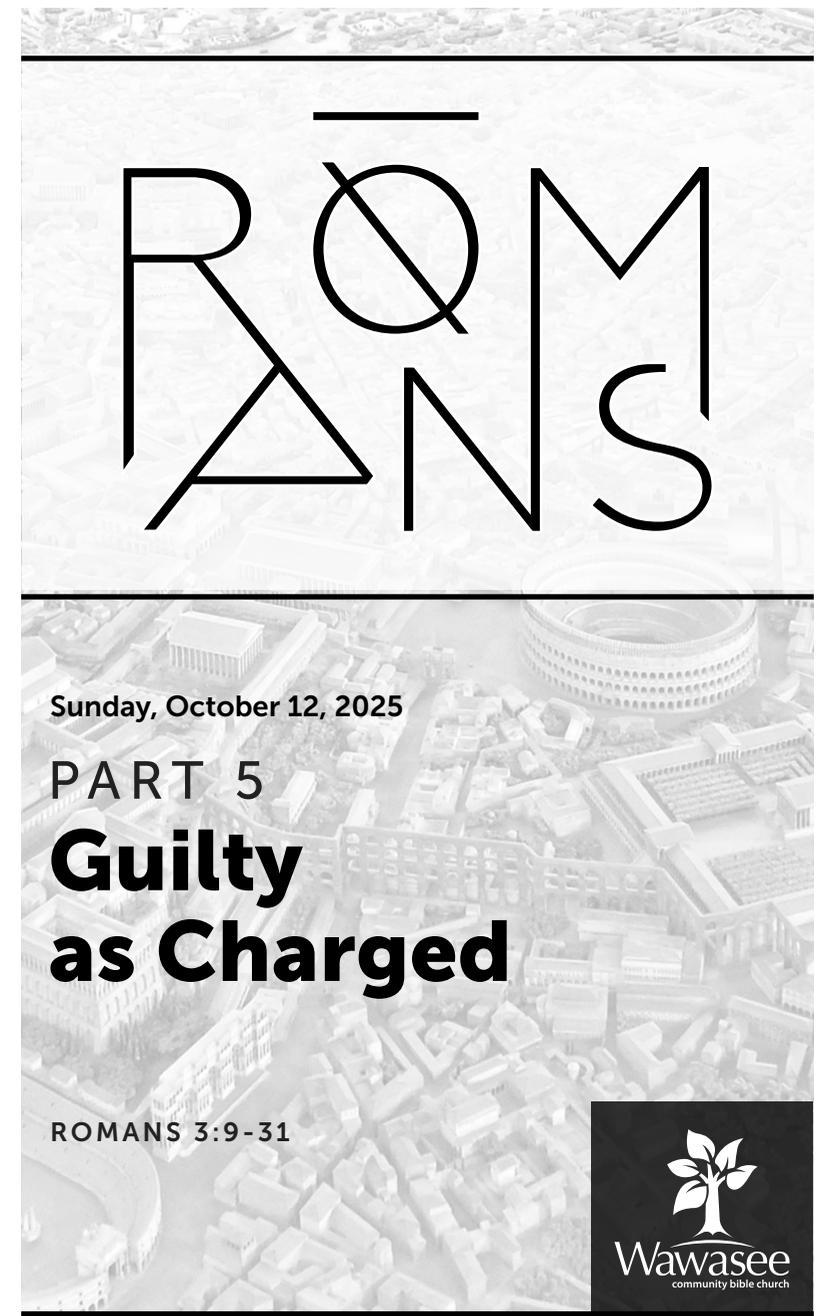
This week's Study Guide is adapted in part from a study by North Coast Church in Vista, CA. North Coast is a sister church of Wawasee Bible and part of the EFCA.



Wawasee Bible is part of the Evangelical Free Church of America. View our Statement of Faith online at wawaseebible.com/beliefs. Learn more about the EFCA at efca.org.

Wawasee Community Bible Church

2035 East 1300 North | Milford, Indiana 46542 | 574-658-9161 | wawaseebible.com



Sunday, October 12, 2025

PART 5

Guilty as Charged

ROMANS 3:9-31



Wawasee
community bible church



We're Glad You're Here Today!

Scan QR code for our **App** with **Bulletin, Connect Card, & more.**

<https://wawasee.today>