

know better, but they do worse!

And finally, there are no human beings who perfectly obey the law of God.

In Romans 3:9 Paul charges that "Jews and Gentiles alike are all under sin." And in verses 10-12 he says:

As it is written: "There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one."

And so Paul concludes in chapter 3, verses 19 and 20:

Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God. Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin.

This brings us to our third question:

III. WILL ALL PEOPLE BE SAVED? OR WILL SOME BE LOST?

Of course our main focus in this question is on those who do not have the law of God and have never come into contact with the saving gospel of Jesus Christ. Will they eventually be saved? Or will they actually be lost forever, to suffer endless punishment?

We can say three things in response.

First, there is no human being without a revelation of God as Creator, Lawgiver, and Judge. In Romans 1:18-21 Paul writes:

The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities – his eternal power and divine nature – have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.