

Eleutheros Newsletter

July 2026

Thoughts on Romans

3:15-17 *Their feet are swift to shed blood: Destruction and misery are in their ways; And the way of peace have they not known.*

A personal illustration: Quite a few years ago one of my professors assigned a project that required considerable research. He wanted each student in the class to determine what was the most important event that happened in each decade for four hundred years in each of these ancient civilizations: Assyria, Babylon, Greece, and Rome.

Each of us checked into books all over the university's library for several weeks and turned in our work on the day it was due.

His first question that day was, "What did you learn?"

My response was simple. "The most important event in each decade for four hundred years in each ancient civilization was whether they won or lost their wars."

Paul recognized man's depravity in every aspect of their lives in [Romans 3:13-14](#), describing throats as an open sepulchre, deceitful tongues, snake poison under lips, and mouths full of cursing and bitterness.

Here in [3:15-16](#) the Apostle explains the way man's depravity is so often manifested: shedding blood, destroying property and lives, and causing misery.

Man's natural condition is destructive because there is "none that seeketh after God."

Simply put, "the way of peace of peace have they not known."

So how can a person in such a depraved state know peace?

"Being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in His blood...' ([3:24-25a](#)).

Justification (a declaration by God that a believer is not only "not guilty," but absolutely holy!) Redemption that is in Jesus Christ (He bought the believer and paid the price no one else could pay!). And propitiation through faith (the amazing fact that holy God, who cannot stand sin, now is no longer angry at a believer's sin!). What a deliverance! What a Savior!

There surely is a difference between an unbeliever's standing before God and a believer's standing before God!

Man, naturally manifests his depravity in wars, greed, destruction, and “are all gone out of the way” ([3:12a](#)).

Paul later describes what should be the life of true believers in Christ. “Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. If it be possible, as much as lieth within you, live peaceably with all men” ([Romans 12:17-18](#)).

These results come by God’s grace! May God’s people manifest these things in a way that gives Him all the glory He deserves!

May the words of this hymn also speak to our hearts:

Peace, Perfect Peace

Edward H. Bickersteth

Peace, perfect peace, in this dark world of sin?

The blood of Jesus whispers peace within.

Peace, perfect peace, our future all unknown?

Jesus, we know, and He is still on the throne!

It is enough; earth’s struggles shall soon cease;

And Jesus, call us to heaven’s perfect peace!

We will continue these thoughts on Romans in next month’s newsletter.