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The Universal Need of Mankind 1:18 to 3:20



The first step in the revelation of the **righteousness** that **God** provides for people by **trust** is to set forth their need for it because they are under **God's** judgment. The human race stands condemned before **God** and is helpless and hopeless apart from **God's** grace. **Paul** discusses this need for a **Messiah** in three different groups of people: **the pagan Gentile (Ak)**, **the "good" person (Ao)**, and **the religious Jew (Ar)**. Before we can appreciate our need for justification, we need to understand our position as sinners. Unless we understand that we are sinners in **His** sight, we will never come to **Him** for salvation. **Paul** sums up this main point in **3:23**, "**Since all have sinned and come short of earning God's praise.**"