**Shh**

Romans 3:19-20

**Passage Background and Context Information**

Romans 3 begins with the Jew’s advantage of possessing God’s Word. However, just having God’s Word did not exempt them from God’s judgment. In Romans 3:10–18, God Himself looks down from heaven to see if there is anyone who seeks and fears Him. He could find no one! He found no one righteous. No one seeks God. No one lives a life of goodness, obedient to God’s desires. No one lives in fear of God. Everyone is under sin, in the grip of evil. **Theologians label this truth “the doctrine of total depravity.”** It does not mean that every human has done every bad thing possible. Total depravity means, from the cradle to the grave, our natural inclination is toward sin, and sin affects every facet of our existence, including our desires, intellect, imagination, and behavior. The potential for every conceivable human vice is in everyone. The Jews’ possession of God’s Word did not keep them from sin. So what advantage is in having God’s Word?

**The Question**

So, what is the purpose of the Law?

**Bible Verse**

###### Romans 3:19-20 (CSB)

19 Now we know that whatever the Law says, it speaks to those who are subject to the Law, so that every mouth may be shut and the whole world may become subject to God’s judgment.

20 For no one will be justified in his sight by the works of the Law, because the knowledge of sin comes through the Law.

**1. The \_\_\_ shows \_\_\_.**

* **Secondarily, the \_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_ our \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

**Pray**

“Dear Jesus, I admit that I am a sinner. I confess that I am guilty. But I believe You love me. You came down for me. You lived a perfect life, and You shed Your own blood and died to forgive me of all my sins. I believe God raised You from the dead to forgive me. Please forgive me. Remember my sins no more. Fill me with the Holy Spirit to change my heart and life. And grant me eternal life for Your name’s sake. In Jesus’ name. Amen.”

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“Lord, our sinful natures deceive us to believe it is okay to things our way, to trust our judgment, to ignore Your commands, Bring me to the judgment of Your Law, so that I may see the condemnation of my sin and my alienation from You. Bless me with the forgiving Word of the Gospel that I might believe in You, O Christ, and have the joy of forgiveness and the living hope of eternal life. Help me, Lord, to be an instrument in Your hands, in Jesus’ name. Amen.” – Adapted from a Lutheran Book of Prayer