

There simply are no people who persist in doing good, who seek heavenly glory, honor and immortality, who perfectly obey the Law of God, and who will therefore be declared righteous in the judgment. It there were any such people they would be declared righteous! But there are none except for Jesus Christ!

To confirm this, Paul concludes this first major section of the epistle with a strong conclusion, in 3: 19-20 (read it). Here it is clearly stated! 2: 13 says that “those who obey the Law will be declared righteous.” 3:20 says that “no one will be declared righteous by obeying the Law.”

Is this a contradiction? NO! On the day of judgment God will declare righteous ALL who have perfectly obeyed his perfect standard of righteousness. But NONE will be found who have done this! NONE have obeyed the Law! ALL have transgressed God’s Law, and continue to fall short of its high and holy standard of righteousness!

It is not through obeying the Law that human beings are declared righteous in God’s sight, for human beings do NOT obey it. Rather, the righteous Law reveals human beings to be what they are--sinners! And the righteous Law silences every mouth, and holds the whole world accountable to God and liable to punishment for their sin.

**If then the Law condemns every human being, then no human being can be declared righteous by the Law. The Law can pronounce only ONE judgment upon its transgressors-----
“GUILTY!”**

Conclusion: Paul has now deliberately brought us to the depths of despair, so far as any attempts on our part to earn righteous standing before God by trying to fulfill the demands of the Law.

In the first major strand of thought in this section, he has amply demonstrated that all unsaved human beings are unrighteous.