

# Romans 3:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.

## Analysis

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**They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.** The catena continues (Psalm 14:3). *Pantes exeklinan* (πάντες ἐξέκλιναν, "all turned aside")—universal apostasy. *Hama ēchreiōthēsan* (ἅμα ἡχρειώθησαν, "together became worthless")—depicting humanity as *achreios* (ἀχρεῖος), "unprofitable/useless" for God's purposes, like sour wine or corroded metal.

*Ouk estin ho poiōn chrēstotēta* (οὐκ ἔστιν ὁ ποιῶν χρηστότητα, "there is none who does good/kindness")—total moral inability. The repetition of *ouk estin heōs henos* ("not even one") hammers home universality. This is not saying humans do no good deeds by human standards, but that no one does what is truly good by God's standard—nothing proceeds from faith and love for God (Romans 14:23; 1 Corinthians 13:1-3).

## Historical Context

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The imagery of "turning aside" reflects Israel's wilderness wanderings and apostasy. Paul applies Israel's own self-critique in the Psalms to prove that Jews, like Gentiles, are covenant breakers who have departed from God's way. The Qumran community also emphasized human sinfulness, though they considered themselves the righteous remnant.

## Related Passages

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**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

## Study Questions

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1. How does the Bible's definition of "good" differ from cultural or relative morality?
2. Why can even apparently good deeds be "unprofitable" if not done in faith and for God's glory?
3. How should this verse humble your self-assessment while driving you to Christ's righteousness?

## Interlinear Text

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πάντες	ἐξέκλιναν	ἅμα	ἡχρειώθησαν·	οὐκ	ἔστιν
all	They are	together	become unprofitable	no not	one
G3956	G1578	G260	G889	G3756	G2076
ποιῶν	χρηστότητα	οὐκ	ἔστιν	ἕως	ένός
that doeth	good	no not	one	G2193	G1520
G4160	G5544	G3756	G2076		

## Additional Cross-References

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**Psalms 14:3** (Good): They are all gone aside, they are all together become filthy: there is none that doeth good, no, not one.

**Ecclesiastes 7:20** (Good): For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not.

**Isaiah 64:6** (Parallel theme): But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.

**Isaiah 59:8** (Parallel theme): The way of peace they know not; and there is no judgment in their goings: they have made them crooked paths: whosoever goeth therein shall not know peace.

**Isaiah 53:6** (Parallel theme): All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

**Ecclesiastes 7:29** (Parallel theme): Lo, this only have I found, that God hath made man upright; but they have sought out many inventions.

**1 Peter 2:25** (Parallel theme): For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls.

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