



CELL GUIDE

TOPIC	The Problem of Sin	SPEAKER	SP Chua Seng Lee
THEME	Romans: The Righteousness of God	DATE	12 & 13 September 2026

MESSAGE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

Pastor Seng Lee started by emphasising that sin should not be compared as “big” or “small” because all sin separates us from a holy God. He points out an important distinction between “sin” as the sinful nature within us and “sins” as the outward behaviours that flow from that nature. Romans 1 to 3 exposes both the root and the fruit of humanity’s problem. Understanding the seriousness of sin also helps us appreciate the greatness of grace.

THE PROBLEM OF SIN

1) Sin suppresses the truth of God

Romans 1:18 connects directly with the previous verses about the gospel and righteousness by faith. God has already made Himself known through our conscience and through creation, so humanity is “without excuse.” Yet instead of honouring and thanking God, people suppress the truth and turn to other things for worship. Idolatry can include not only physical idols, but also work, family, success, comfort, or even ourselves when these take priority over God. The speaker applies this especially to worship, which is fundamentally about God, not about whether we personally feel emotionally satisfied.

2) Sin causes God to give us over

When people repeatedly reject God’s truth and persist in sin without repentance, God may eventually allow them to experience the consequences of the path they have deliberately chosen. This progression begins with the suppression of truth and can move toward impurity, distorted desires, and a depraved mind. God’s wrath must be understood in light of His holiness, and one expression of that wrath is God allowing people to continue down the road they have insisted on taking. Absence of immediate consequences does not always mean that everything is fine. Sometimes a person may sin and apparently “get away with it,” but that should never be interpreted as God’s approval. The correct response is repentance while the heart is still responsive. Christians are also called to maintain both truth and love, by loving people genuinely while refusing to redefine sin simply because culture approves of it.

3) Sin brings the judgement of God

- God's judgment is inescapable; no one can hide from it or find a loophole.
- God's judgment is impeccable; God judges according to perfect righteousness and truth, without error or weakness.
- God's judgment is individualised; each person gives an account for his or her own deeds, and no one can hide behind the excuse that "everyone else is doing it."
- God's judgment is impartial; status, background, race, upbringing, or religious identity do not secure special treatment.
- God's judgment is inside-out; God judges not only outward behaviour but also the secrets and motives of the heart.

This means the sermon cannot simply be used to analyse other people. The question becomes personal: What about me?

4) Sin causes some to be deceived

The Jewish people had the Law and circumcision, but Paul warned that outward religious identity is meaningless without inward obedience. Pastor Seng Lee applied this to Christians as well: baptism, church attendance, Bible knowledge, or even having Scripture easily available on our phones do not automatically mean that our hearts are right with God. We can become self-deceived when we know the truth but fail to live it out.

5) The final verdict: All are under sin

- Be honest with the truth. Because sin naturally suppresses truth and exchanges it for lies, the first step toward freedom is honesty. Stop hiding, rationalising, minimising, or redefining what God has said. Honesty is the first step toward the light.
- Be humble with the truth. Romans tells us there is "no excuse" and "no escape." We cannot make ourselves righteous before God through our own efforts. Rather than focusing on the sins of the person beside us, we should humble ourselves and ask God for mercy and help.
- Be hungry for the truth. Since God has made Himself known, we should actively receive and respond to His revelation. Pursue God's Word, pursue truth, and ultimately pursue Jesus. Instead of trying to manufacture our own righteousness, we receive the righteousness God provides through faith.

CONCLUSION

Pastor Seng Lee concluded by moving from the seriousness of sin to the hope of grace. He points us back to Jesus. The answer to sin is not simply trying harder or becoming more religious, but putting our faith in Christ and drawing closer to Him. What Jesus did on the cross is sufficient to deal with our sin, and therefore the proper response is repentance, faith, and renewed pursuit of God.

QUESTIONS

1. What are some ways we can become spiritually self-deceived? (e.g. Knowing God's word, attending church, or doing "Christian things" but not allowing God to change us). Is there an area God has been spotlighting to you personally, but you have found yourself ignoring, rationalising, or putting aside?

2. Which part of the sermon challenged you the most? Suppressing the truth, being "given over", God's judgment, self-deception, or the fact that all are under sin? Why?

3. Senior Pastor Seng Lee ended with: be honest, be humble, and be hungry for the truth. Which of these three do you most need to practise this week, and what could that look like practically?