

Romans – Chapter 3

Summary of Previous Chapter

- *The Jews saw the sins of others but didn't see their own sin*
- *They were dishonouring God through their sin*
- *God will render to each person according to his actions, but for those who are in Christ, we know that Christ has taken the punishment for our sins*
- *The Gentiles didn't have the law, but they did have their conscience*
- *Circumcision means nothing unless it is accompanied by faithful living*

Chapter 3: The Problem and the Solution

Word to highlight: **Just**

God is right, even when we do wrong (1-8)

Then what advantage has the Jew? Or what is the value of circumcision? ² Much in every way. To begin with, the Jews were entrusted with the oracles of God. ³ What if some were unfaithful? Does their faithlessness nullify the faithfulness of God? ⁴ By no means! Let God be true though every one were a liar, as it is written,

“That you may be justified in your words,
and prevail when you are judged.” (Psalm 51:4)

⁵ But if our unrighteousness serves to show the righteousness of God, what shall we say? That God is unrighteous to inflict wrath on us? (I speak in a human way.) ⁶ By no means! For then how could God judge the world? ⁷ But if through my lie God's

truth abounds to his glory, why am I still being condemned as a sinner? ⁸ And why not do evil that good may come?—as some people slanderously charge us with saying. Their condemnation is just.

According to verse 1-2, what advantage do the Jews have?

Why is this an advantage?

Does this advantage help to solve the problem of sin?

All Are Under Sin (9-20)

⁹ What then? Are we Jews any better off? No, not at all. For we have already charged that all, both Jews and Greeks, are under sin, ¹⁰ as it is written:

Psalm 14:1-3	{	“None is righteous, no, not one;
		¹¹ no one understands;
		no one seeks for God.
		¹² All have turned aside; together they have become worthless;
		no one does good,
		not even one.”
Psalm 5:9	{	¹³ “Their throat is an open grave;
		they use their tongues to deceive.”
Psalm 140:3	{	“The venom of asps is under their lips.”
Psalm 10:7	{	¹⁴ “Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness.”
		¹⁵ “Their feet are swift to shed blood;
Isaiah 59:7-8	{	¹⁶ in their paths are ruin and misery,
Proverbs 1:16		¹⁷ and the way of peace they have not known.”
Psalm 36:1	{	¹⁸ “There is no fear of God before their eyes.”

¹⁹ Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held

accountable to God. ²⁰ For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

Paul quotes from many Old Testament references to show how humans behave. What do these verses teach us about sin? What kinds of sin are mentioned? Do we see these sins in our world and in our life today?

Justified by Grace (21-26)

²¹ But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— ²² the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. ²⁶ It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

How has God's righteousness been manifested? Or, how has it been shown to us that God is right?

What reason do we have to boast? (27-31)

²⁷ Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith. ²⁸ For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law. ²⁹ Or is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of

Gentiles also? Yes, of Gentiles also, ³⁰ since God is one—who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith. ³¹ Do we then overthrow the law by this faith? By no means! On the contrary, we uphold the law.

To boast means to hold our heads high? What are we tempted to boast in? Why is boasting excluded?

Questions

How would we summarise this chapter?

What can I apply from what I have learnt? How does this chapter change my choices and behaviour?

What is something I can pray for based on this text?