

## ***Romans Chapter 3***

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V: 1 All things being equal, what advantage then is there to being a Jew as opposed to a Gentile.

- In some ways none, we're all equal in God's eyes, He is not a respecter of persons.

**Galatians 3:28** "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female; for ye are all one in Christ Jesus."

- What profit or advantage is there in circumcision, speaking of being Jewish generally. Again we're all equal in God's eyes.
- There are health benefits to circumcision related to general hygiene and long term health benefits - but that's not what Paul is talking about.
- There is one huge advantage to the Jews generally: V: 2

V: 2 God committed His Word to the Jews in their native language, those who read Hebrew could read God's Word.

- That's the premise of the Wycliff Bible translators, they're trying to get God's Word into every different people's hands in their own language knowing it will change their lives.
- The Jews received the oracles of God, the Word of God, the revelation of God, Jesus was born into this world as a Jew.

**Deuteronomy 4:5-8** "5Behold, I have taught you statutes and judgments, even as the Lord my God commanded me, that ye should do so in the land whither ye go to possess it. 6Keep therefore and do them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the nations, which shall hear all these statutes, and say, surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people. 7For what nation is there so great, who hath God so nigh unto them, as the Lord our God is in all things that we call upon him for? 8And what nation is there so great, that hath statutes and judgments so righteous as all this law, which I set before you this day?"

**Psalms 33:12** "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord; and the people whom He hath chosen for His own inheritance."

- The Jews received the inspired Word of God in their own language and faithfully maintained and meticulously transcribed it over and over again, maintaining the integrity of each document.
- Prior to the discovery of the dead sea scrolls in 1947, the oldest complete Hebrew manuscript of the Old Testament was dated about 900 AD. The Dead Sea Isaiah Scroll is dated about 200 BC. When they compared the two, there were no significant discrepancies. The Jewish scribes had faithfully and accurately copied the Word of God throughout the Old Testament period.

**Psalm 119:41-48** “<sup>41</sup>Let Thy mercies come also unto me, O Lord, even Thy salvation, according to Thy word. <sup>42</sup>So shall I have wherewith to answer him that reproacheth me: for I trust in Thy word. <sup>43</sup>And take not the word of truth utterly out of my mouth; for I have hope in Thy judgments. <sup>44</sup>So shall I keep Thy law continually for ever and ever. <sup>45</sup>And I will walk at liberty: for I seek thy precepts. <sup>46</sup>I will speak of thy testimonies also before kings, and will not be ashamed. <sup>47</sup>And I will delight myself in Thy commandments, which I have loved. <sup>48</sup>My hands also will I lift up unto Thy commandments, which I have loved; and I will meditate in Thy statutes.”

- Even though the Jewish people didn't understand the purpose of the Law, which was to help them see that they were guilty and in need of a savior. The fact remains that they were uniquely blessed to have the Law, especially as they sought to keep the Law. There is and was inherent blessing in the keeping of it.
- When the bubonic plague swept across Europe (1346-1353), killing one in 3 people, (30-60%) the Jewish population was virtually un-touched. They had been keeping the law, in so doing they protected themselves due to the hygienic and dietary regulations contained within the Law.
- So, too, throughout history, the Jews have always done well monetarily. Why? Because the financial principles contained within the law work—regardless of whether those who practice them walk close to the Lord or even believe in Him.
- God's word has practical application and rewards in our every day lives.

V: 3-4 The unfaithfulness of man does not impact the faithfulness of God.

**2 Timothy 2:13** “If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself.”

- Whether we believe that the sun will rise in the morning or not, it will still come up.
- When the teacher writes  $2 + 2 = 4$  on the chalkboard, a contrary opinion on that basic fact doesn't change the fact,  $2 + 2 = 4$ .

- The same is true regarding atheism, whether or not anyone believes in God, He is real and true.
- Men will say anything to justify their behavior, even saying that there is no God – no one to whom we would be accountable. Saying it doesn't make it so, and dreams don't always come true.

V: 4 Is the perfect response to Paul's question: God forbid! Let God be true every time, and every man a liar in both comparison to God who is true, and practically - we're all liars.

- How many lies do you have to tell to be one?
- Paul goes on to quote King David in Psalm 51:4

**Psalm 51:4** "Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest."

- God doesn't need to investigate, He doesn't need to call witnesses, or gather evidence - He has seen it for Himself and thus He is able to render righteous judgment.

V: 5-6 If our behavior proves God to be true, is it unfair for God to judge us?

- Answer: No! Sin is still sin. We're not doing God any favors by being sinful.
- God's words are proven to be true as we again prove that we're sinners, but He isn't glorified in it, He doesn't take pleasure in sin. He certainly doesn't condone it.
- Some pastors tell stories packed with emotion, trying to draw people in with the emotion in an attempt to lead people to Christ, but there is no truth in them – they are lies. Would that pastor be subject to God's judgment? Look at the good that came from it. God never condones sin.

**Matthew 7:22-23** "22Many will say to Me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Thy name? And in Thy name have cast out devils? And in Thy name done many wonderful works? 23And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from Me, ye that work iniquity."

- Bottom line, the end does not justify the means.

V: 7-8 Same thing, stated a different way. Some have reasoned that God could be glorified through a lie.

- Some Christians were slanderously reported to have said, “let us do evil that good may come from it.”
- Paul characterized those people as those “whose damnation is just.” - Saying that their judgment is well deserved.
- There is no justification for sin apart from Jesus.
- Those who promote such things will be judged, and deservedly so.

V: 9-10 Are we better off than those that lie to glorify God? No, we’re all sinners deserving of death, sin is sin, and the wages of sin is death.

- We are all on an equal footing – all sinners in need of salvation.

V: 10-18 “*As it is written...*” A lot of Paul’s teachings are lessons from the OT. Paul goes on to describe those who would seek to deceive others, quoting from the Psalms, Ecclesiastes, and Isaiah to make his point.

V: 10-12 Come from Psalm 14.

**Psalm 14:1-3** “<sup>1</sup>The fool hath said in his heart, *there is no God*. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good. <sup>2</sup>The Lord looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, and seek God. <sup>3</sup>They were all gone aside, they are all together become filthy: there is none that doeth good, no, not one.”

- This very much parallels the devolution of man described in Romans 1:18-32 who were saying “no” to God and reaping the result of their rebellion.

Paul reiterates that

“<sup>10</sup>*There is none righteous, no, not one...*”

- These verses indicate that the whole of man’s inner being is controlled by sin:

1. His **mind** - “<sup>11</sup>...*none that understandeth...*”
2. His **heart** - “<sup>11b</sup>... *none that seeketh after God*”
3. His **will** - “<sup>12b</sup>... *none that doeth good, no, not one.*”

- Measured by God’s perfect righteousness, no human being is sinless. No sinner seeks after God. Therefore, God must seek the sinner - and praise God that He does!

- This scripture isn't just fulfilled by the fist shaking atheist, but the average person who in their daily behavior conducts themselves without any apparent fear of God, no fear of judgment or repercussions for their behavior. God being completely discounted from all of their considerations about living in this life, or the life to come.
- Like Frank Sinatra – doing it their way, as opposed to God's way.

**Isaiah 53:6** "... all we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one to his own way; ..."

V: 13-14 Throats, tongues, lips, mouths given over to the enemies use.

- Their throats being an open tomb: quoting **Psalm 5:9**.

**Isaiah 5:14** "Therefore hell hath enlarged herself, and opened her mouth without measure: an their glory, and their multitude, and their pomp, and he that rejoiceth, shall descend into it."

V: 13b "... the poison of asps... quoting **Psalm 140:3**.

**Matthew 12:34** "... For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks."

V: 14 Mouths full of cursing and bitterness: quoting **Psalm 10:7**.

**Ephesians 4:29** "Let no corrupt communication / word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers."

**James Ch. 3** - Speaks about the tongue.

V: 15-16 Feet that are swift to shed blood - God hates that. (**Isaiah 59:7-8**)

**Proverbs 6:16-19** "<sup>16</sup>These six things doth the Lord hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto Him: <sup>17</sup>A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, <sup>18</sup>An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, <sup>19</sup>A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren."

- Destruction and misery are in their ways and that is what God wants to protect us from.

V: 17 Not knowing the way of peace: which is surrender – peace through the Prince of Peace.

**Romans 5:1** “Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,”

**Isaiah 48:22** “There is no peace, saith the Lord, unto the wicked.”

V: 18 This is the basic problem with these people, these kinds of people; they don't fear God, they're not worried about the repercussions of their actions, their sins.

Quoting:

**Psalm 36:1** “The transgression of the wicked saith within his heart, that there is no fear of God before his eyes.”

- The wicked say in their heart that there is no reason to fear God, they're not accountable, they're going to get away with it.
- When people don't fear God, they're thinking because they don't believe they will not be held accountable for their actions.
- That's one of the reasons that we're encouraged to fear God, because the fear of the Lord will keep us on track, keep us away from sin, for fear of both the repercussions and the judgment to follow.
- How can evil people do the things that they do?

**Galatians 6:7-8** “<sup>7</sup>Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. <sup>8</sup>For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.”

- All of this just re-enforces the fact that we are saved by grace, by His goodness and not at all by any good thing we do.

**Romans 7:18** “For I know that in me, that is, in my flesh, dwelleth no good thing:”

**Ephesians 2:8-9** “<sup>8</sup>For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: <sup>9</sup>Not of works, lest any man should boast.”

V: 19 Paul turns from describing those wicked people that would pervert the Word of God back to those who would seek to be justified by the Law, still pretty much talking about the Jews.

- We are left without excuse or argument – we are all guilty. Every mouth being stopped - there is no more argument, no excuses are valid, end of discussion.

- The Law was never intended for the righteous, but for the unrighteous - those who would need to be re-directed from the pathway of sin.

**1 Timothy 1:9** “9Knowing this, that the Law is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and for sinners, for unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for man slayers, <sup>10</sup>For whoremongers (fornicators), for them that defile themselves with mankind (sodomites), for men stealers, or liars, for perjured persons, and if there be any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine;”

V: 20 None of us can be justified by the Law, because we have all broken the Law.

**Galatians 2:16** “Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the Law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.”

- The Law simply shows us that we are sinners in need of salvation.

**Galatians 3:24** “Therefore the Law was our tutor / school master to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith.”

- The Jews mistakenly taught that men could actually keep the Law, they were counting on an external observance.
- Jesus blew their position out of the water with the Sermon on the Mount, describing the internal conflict and violations in the hearts and minds of men. Because of that we're all liars, adulterers, murderers, and thieves. Shuts us all up.

Now between verses 20 and 21 there is a division or change of subjects. Moving from proving all men guilty of sin and therefore worthy of death, the transition is made in how to solve the problem, how men get saved.

V: 21 God's righteousness is manifest or observable through the Law because He is the only One who could actually keep it, He does what no one else could do.

- God's righteousness is revealed through His Son, Jesus.

**Matthew 5:17-18** “<sup>17</sup>Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill. <sup>18</sup>For verily I say unto you, till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.”

**1 Corinthians 5:21** “For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.”

The heart of the book of Romans:

- God’s plan to save unrighteous sinners, while at the same time still not compromising His own righteousness.
- God cannot condone sin in any way, the punishment for sin is death.
- Yet, God loves the sinner and is not willing that any should perish.
- There can be no compromise in His righteousness, so God Himself pays the price.

V: 22 We receive that righteousness which is God’s through faith in Jesus.

- Cited: re the righteousness of Jesus, the sinlessness of Jesus - but also the imputed righteousness of Jesus to each of us who believe.

**1 Corinthians 5:21** “For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.”

- Emphasizing the exchange, our sin for His righteousness.

KVJ / CJB “... by faith of Jesus Christ...”

NKJV, NASB, NIV, Amp: “... by faith in Jesus Christ.”

- A strong case could easily be made for both: It is His faithfulness that carries the day, He is faithful when we are not, our dependance is upon Him and not upon ourselves.
- When we’re abiding in Christ, our salvation and our relationship with God doesn’t vary because we’re resting in Him, His completed work, His faithfulness. Otherwise we depend on ourselves to maintain things which is erratic and varies greatly.
- But at the same time we must believe in Him, we must also have faith in His completed work on the cross for His righteousness to cover us.

**Hebrews 11:6** “But without faith it is impossible to please Him; ...”

V: 22b “... *for there is no difference:*”

- No distinction between Jew or Gentile, we are all justified the same way, through the righteousness of Jesus.

Jesus said:

**John 15:5** “I am the Vine, ye are the branches: he that abideth in Me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit, for without Me ye can do nothing.”



- Apart from Jesus we have no justification before God the Father.
- Faith is only as good as it's object. All men trust in something, even if it's just their own wisdom and understanding. But the Christian trusts in Christ Jesus.
- Law righteousness is a reward for works, Gospel righteousness is gift through faith.
- The beauty of it is that because our righteous standing depends on Jesus, it is stable and secure.
- When it is based on our performance, it's like a house of cards, always in jeopardy, never certain – but there is absolute certainty in our Lord.

V: 23 All, (no exceptions) have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.

**Galatians 3:22** “But the Scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe.”

- We might think that we are better than others.

**Romans 3:10** “As it is written, there is none righteous, no, not one.”

V: 24 Being (presently & continually) justified freely through His grace.

- **Justified**: to render righteous; “just as if it never happened”, and more: **we receive the imputed righteousness of Jesus.**
1. Justification is an act as opposed to a process. There are not degrees of justification, either you are or your aren't.
  2. Justification is something that God does, that man cannot do. No man, no sinner can justify himself before God.
  3. Justification does not mean that God *makes* us righteous, but that He *declares* us righteous. Justification is a legal matter. God puts the righteousness of Christ on our record in the place of our own sinfulness. And nobody can change this record.
  4. Justification and sanctification are not the same and we should not confuse the two.
    - Sanctification is the process whereby God makes the believer more and more like Christ. Sanctification may change from day to day. Justification never changes.

- **Freely:** a free gift, gratis, at no charge to us. In other scriptures (John 15:25) it is also translated un-deservedly, or without cause.
- In other words we are justified without a cause, there is no cause in us that would merit the salvation of God. It is all by His grace.
- **Grace:** un-merited favor.
- **Redemption:** deliverance, liberation procured by the payment of a ransom.

**Ephesians 2:8-9** “<sup>8</sup>For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, <sup>9</sup>not of works, lest any man should boast.”

V: 25 God the Father has given His Only Begotten Son – Jesus as the propitiation for our sins.

- **Propitiation:** permanently atonement (at one ment).
- As distinguished from the OT Kophar, “covering” which was temporary.
- Here Paul describes that Jesus is our propitiation.

**Hebrews 9:11-12** “<sup>11</sup>But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; <sup>12</sup>Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by His own blood He entered in once into the Holy place, having obtained redemption for us..”

- **Forbearance:** to be patient or self-controlled when subject to annoyance or provocation.

V: 25-26 In order for God to forgive us for our sins, He must have a just basis for that forgiveness, for that judgment.

- That just basis is the substitutionary death of Jesus, who died in our place, He takes our penalty upon Himself.

**Ezekiel 18:20** “The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him.”

- It is a blood sacrifice that is required to purge or cleanse away sin, otherwise it's fire.

**Hebrews 9:22** “And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.”

- Adam & Eve, blood sacrifice & covering.
- The Gospel message, the good news is that Jesus has taken our sins upon Himself, He covered our sins in His blood, He has paid the debt that we couldn't.

**Psalm 103:8-13** “<sup>8</sup>The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in mercy. <sup>9</sup>He will not always strive with us, nor will He keep His anger forever. <sup>10</sup>He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor punished us according to our iniquities. <sup>11</sup>For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is His mercy toward those who fear Him; <sup>12</sup>As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us. <sup>13</sup>As a father pities his children, so the Lord pities those who fear Him.”

- He alone is just, and He is the justifier of those who believe in Him, who place their faith in Him.

V: 27 If it was of our works, then we could boast to some degree, but it is all of His work on the cross, we can't boast - we can only praise and be thankful!

**Ephesians 2:8-9** “<sup>8</sup>For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, <sup>9</sup>not of works, lest any man should boast.”

- Song: “Jesus Paid It All” - JV MaGee theme song.

*“And when, before the throne, I stand in Him complete, “Jesus died my soul to save,” My lips shall still repeat. Jesus paid it all, All to Him I owe; Sin had left a crimson stain, He washed it white as snow.”*

**1 Corinthians 1:29** “That no flesh should glory in His presence.”

- If we're going to boast, it should be in Jesus for what He has done:

**Galatians 6:14** “But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.”

- It's a common refrain: “we're not under the Law,” which at times people will use as a cloak for sin - and certainly in a sense we're no longer under the covenant of the Law, as we are under the covenant of blood - referring to the sacrifice of Jesus.
- But according to this verse there is still the “**Law of faith**” to which we are bound.
- There is also what would appear to be the “**Law of love**” that Jesus commanded.

**John 13:34-35** “<sup>34</sup>A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. <sup>35</sup>By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.”

V: 28 Justification is without or apart from the deeds or the works of the Law.

**Romans 1:17** “For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.”

**Galatians 2:16** “Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.”

**Jude 24** “Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy,”

**Colossians 2:10** “You are complete in Him, ...”

- Complete: nothing lacking, full measure, perfect.
- Nothing else for us to do. If we try to add to it all we can do is wreck it. (Testimony: Grace’s spaghetti / Shelly Tolley’s “additions”)

V: 29 He is God of both the Jews and the Gentiles.

**Isaiah 42:6** “I, the Lord, have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thine hand, and will keep thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, for a light of the Gentiles.”

- There was no need to become a Jew first to become a Christian because it wasn’t about keeping the Law, it was more about becoming aware of sin and the need for a savior.

V: 30 The same God justifies both by faith, circumcision (adherence to the Law) or un-circumcision (non-adherence to the Law) - the rituals of the past no longer matter because they are all fulfilled in Jesus.

- God gave the Law to the Jews, but the Gospel is to all men!
- Justification is through faith, whether to the Jews or to the Gentiles. We all come to Christ the same way, on the basis of His righteousness - through faith.

V: 31 Does all of this nullify or void the Law? NO. The rituals, the sacrifices are fulfilled but not nullified. The righteous requirements of the Law still stand.

- God Himself obeyed His own Law, which was fulfilled through His Son Jesus.
- Moving into chapter 4, Paul will use Abraham as an illustration of that fulfillment that comes from their own history.