

Chap 3:1-20



ROMANS
GOSPEL~ROOTED LIVING

Where have we been so far?

- Salutation and Introduction

- Received God's grace and peace by faith?

- Inditement

- Rejoice: you are saved from the lies of sin

- Other's sin? Focus on the Gospel!

- Cultivate "knowing" God

Theodicy: (theos “God” + dikē, “justice”)

- Defense of God’s character
 - God’s wrath justly falls on both:
 - Gentiles (1:18–32) & Jews (2:1–29)
- Is there any advantage to being a Jew?
 - Yes, but not simply b/c they are Jews

διατριβω (diatribō)

- Paul uses diatribe
 - A forceful and critical verbal attack
- Anticipating his opponents questions...
 - Paul will ask & then flatly negate them

Inclusio (bookends) of verses 1-9

- Verse 1

Then what advantage has the Jew?

- Verse 9

⁹ What then? Are we Jews any better off?

Romans 3:1-2

Proposition 1

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.

- God revealed Himself to the Jews – Jn 4:22
- Sufficiency of Scripture – 2 Tim 3:14-17

Romans 3:3-4

Question 1

³ What if some were unfaithful? Does their faithlessness nullify the faithfulness of God?

⁴ By no means!...

- Quotes Psalm 51:4 - David admits he sinned
 - Man's sin does not indict the Creator
 - B/C man sins, God is right to judge

Romans 3:5-6

Question 2

⁵ ...if our unrighteousness serves to show the righteousness of God...God is unrighteous ...⁶ By no means!...how could God judge...

- *If we are God's pawns, He is unjust!*
 - Start with who God is – Gen 18:25

Romans 3:7-8

Question 3

7 ...if through my lie God's truth abounds to his glory...why not do evil that good may come?—as some people slanderously charge us with saying. Their condemnation is just.

- *If my sin serves to forward God's agenda...*
 - Refutes the idea Paul is “antinomian”

Romans 3:9

Answer to Proposition 1

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,

“The maximum effective range of an excuse is zero meters”

Paul's קָרוּז (cha ruz) – string of pearls

- A series of Scripture quotations
 - “None”, “all” and “every” part of them
 - Mind, heart and will – internal
 - Words and deeds – external
- Total Depravity
 - Every aspect impacted / affected by sin

Romans 3:10-12 - Internal condition

...no one understands; (mind)

...no one seeks for God. (heart)

...no one does good, not even one.” (will)

Romans 3:13-14 Their words

13 “Their throat is an open grave; they use their tongues to deceive.” “The venom of asps is under their lips.” 14 “Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness.”

Romans 3:15-17 Their actions

15 “Their feet are swift to shed blood; 16 in their paths are ruin and misery, 17 and the way of peace they have not known.”

Romans 3:18 – the root cause

18 “There is no fear of God before their eyes.”

- No “reverential trust”
 - They do what is right in their own eyes
 - Make selfish decisions

Romans 3:19-20

Paul's conclusion

19 ...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.

Summary:

- God's graces given to Israel does not let them off the hook – they are responsible
- All have sinned and none are righteous

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They need Jesus and the Cross!

What about us Gentiles?

- We've received God's graces – Are we good?
- If God is sovereign, are we responsible?

*We need to repent and place our trust
in Jesus and the Cross as well!*



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