

I) V1-8 INTRO: What advantage then has the Jew or what is the profit of  
As we begin, Paul has written of the spiritual condition of Jew  
and Gentile

II) As we've seen, Gentiles have a conscience and the witness of  
creation

Conscience: Ro 1:19 what may be known of God is manifest in  
them for God has shown it to them

Creation: Ro 1:20 For since the creation of the world His  
invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that  
are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without  
excuse

III) The Gentiles did not have the kind of experiences the Jewish nation  
had

They were idolaters and did not have a genuine knowledge of  
God

IV) They have a natural, innate awareness that there is something  
greater

Conscience and creation combined to provide proof, but they  
rejected it

V) Instead, they *created for themselves* other ways to approach God  
Rejecting His light their hearts were darkened, choosing  
spiritual darkness

VI) Professing to be wise, they foolishly became idol worshipers  
They fashioned for themselves false gods, and worshiped them

VII) The prophets railed against this foolishness

Is 44:9 All makers of idols are nothing, and the things they  
treasure are worthless. Their witnesses fail to see or comprehend, so *they  
are put to shame.*

Ps 115:2-8 Why should the Gentiles say, So where is their  
God?" But our God is in heaven; He does whatever He pleases.  
*Their idols* are silver and gold,  
The work of men's hands. They have *mouths*, but they do not speak;  
*Eyes* they have, but they do not see; They have *ears*, but they do not  
hear; *Noses* they have, but they do not smell; They have *hands*, but

**they do not handle; *Feet* they have, but they do not walk; Nor do they mutter through *their throat*. Those who make them *are like them*; So is everyone who trusts in them.**

**VIII) They have rejected the witness of conscience and creation, and are guilty**

**IX) Which brought him to Israel, in chapter 2**

**I) Paul said unbelieving Jews who considered Gentiles unworthy are still inexcusable because they are guilty of the same sins, and won't escape judgment**

**II) This is all in the face of what could be considered advantages  
V17-20 listed what Israel had been given  
They are physical descendants of Abraham, have God's law, and have circumcision**

**III) Instead of giving them *security* this made them more *accountable*  
This is because great advantage brings great responsibility  
Lu 12:48 For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more.**

**IV) The more you have and know, the more you give account for  
Ro 14:12 So then, each of us will *give an account* of himself to God**

**V) HIS POINT: The Jews have much to be held accountable for**

**VI) Salvation is through faith in Christ by the grace of God  
It is this proclamation that the Jewish people reject  
2 Co 3:13-14 We are not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face to keep the Israelites from gazing at the end of what was fading away. But their minds were closed. For to this day the same veil remains at the reading of the old covenant. It has not been lifted, because only in Christ can it be removed**

**VII) Paul did not teach that the Law was unimportant  
It had spiritual advantages that it bestowed on the Jewish nation**

VIII) Though the law has a purpose it couldn't save

Spurgeon: I do not believe that any man can preach the gospel who does not preach the law. The law is the needle, and you cannot draw the silken thread of the gospel through a man's heart unless you first send the needle of the law to make way for it. If men do not understand the law, they will not feel that they are sinners. And if they are not consciously sinners, they will never value the sin offering. There is no healing a man till the law has wounded him, no making him alive till the law has slain him.

I) Paul begins to deal with this fact in this passage

II) V1-2 What *advantage* then has the Jew or what is the profit of circumcision

His answer to the question is: Great in every respect

They have been given the oracles (utterances) of God: God's

Word

III) God had established a beautiful relationship with the nation

He had chosen them to be His own special people

Dt 10:14-15 Indeed heaven and the highest heavens belong to the LORD your God, also the earth with all that is in it. The LORD delighted *only in your fathers*, to love them; and He chose their descendants after them, you above all peoples, as it is this day.

IV) Because of this, they had a special advantage over other people

They had been given His oracles, His revelation

Dt 4:1-2 Hear now, O Israel, the decrees and laws I am about to teach you. *Follow them* so that you may live and may go in and take possession of the land that the LORD, the God of your fathers, is giving you. Do not add to what I command you and do not subtract from it but *keep the commands* of the LORD your God that I give you.

V) To be blessed required faithful obedience

Dt 5:29 Oh, that their hearts would be inclined to fear me and keep all my commands always, so that it might go well with them and their children forever!

VI) Is it better to have no knowledge or to have some knowledge of God's word

His answer: To have some knowledge of His word is good

It makes it easier to witness to people when they have some knowledge of it

VII) V3 For what if some *did not believe* Will their unbelief make the faithfulness

This would be Paul responding to an objection to what he has said

What if some did not believe? It is not their fault if they do not believe!

VIII) He responds: The OT contained enough information for them to turn to Christ

This is what we see in Luke 16 in the story of Lazarus and the rich man

Lu 16:29 They have Moses and the Prophets; *let them hear them*

I) God's word has sufficient information to encourage faith in Jesus  
The scriptures reveal Jesus and salvation

Jn 5:39 You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me.

2 Ti 3:15 (To Timothy) From infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

II) Why did they not believe?

Heb 4:2 We also have had the gospel preached to us, just as they did; but the message they heard was of no value to them, because those who heard *did not combine it with faith*.

III) V4 Does unbelief *nullify* God's faithfulness? No! Indeed let God be true

He now quotes scripture to make his point

Ps 51:4 Against You, You only, have I sinned, And done this evil in Your sight— That You may be found just when You speak, And blameless when You judge.

IV) Man's *faithlessness* does not annul God's faithfulness

Just because I do not believe does not make God's word untrue

2 Ti 2:13 if we are faithless He remains faithful; He cannot deny

himself

V) V5 But if our unrighteousness demonstrates the righteousness of God what

This is an argument against cheap grace

VI) The thought is: We sin because it is natural for us to do so  
Since it is natural to sin it must be that this is how we were designed

If that is so: How could God judge us for doing that which is natural?

VII) THE ARGUMENT: Deep sin only causes God's grace to be deep  
How could He judge us? The *deeper* the sin the *greater the glory* of grace!

VIII) Paul says: God is *just*, and justly judges sin because it is *right to judge sin*

Ps 7:11 God is a just judge, and God is angry with the wicked every day.

Jn 3:36 Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on them.

I) V5 Is God unjust who inflicts wrath?

Since God created us with the ability to sin, isn't it His fault that we do?

And if it is natural for us to sin, doesn't this make God unjust and unfair?

II) V6 Certainly not! For then how will God judge the world  
If we sin because it's natural and aren't accountable, how can there be judgment

III) Though we have a disposition to sin we also are deserving of judgment

2 Th 1:6-9 it is a *righteous thing* with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you, and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire *taking vengeance* on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the

Lord and from the glory of His power

IV) V7 For if the truth of God has increased through my lie to His glory why am

You say that I teach the more wicked a person is, the more he glorifies God

This would mean that if God's glory is enhanced by sin, why not sin more?

The deeper the sin, the deeper the grace and resulting glory

V) You are saying, if this results in his glory why am I still judged a sinner

This isn't fair and it makes no sense: shouldn't I keep sinning And if I sin even in a worse way, then doesn't God get more glory?

VI) This is completely missing the point of God's amazing grace

VII) God's grace frees you from the bondage of sin

Jn 8:34-36 Jesus replied, Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

VIII) Paul later speaks of this

Ro 6:1-2 What shall we say then *Shall we continue in sin* that grace may abound *Certainly not!* How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?

Grace does not free you *to continue* in sin but sets you free from its power

I) V8 Why not say Let us do evil that good may come as we are slanderously

People are saying that Paul teaches people to do evil so good may come

II) This is slanderous: Blasphemos; to vilify, speak impiously; reproachful

Slanderous: To speak or write about in an abusive and demeaning way

People are falsely accusing Paul of teaching this error

III) His accusers thought he was diminishing the law of Moses  
Does he think he can break the law instead of keeping it?  
Does he think that his disobedience will get reward instead of judgment?

IV) They couldn't see the reality and primacy of grace in the plan of salvation  
They didn't see that the love *for God* and people revealed *God* clearly  
Gal 5:14 For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."

V) His thought: Do not misunderstand grace  
It sets you free to serve God, not to continue in a sinful life  
Gal 5:13-14 For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, *but through love serve one another*. For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

VI) Glory is given to God in proportion to the depth of a person's sin  
Ro 5:20 The law entered that *the offense* might abound. But where *sin abounded, grace abounded much more!*

VII) When someone comes to faith in God, turning from sin God is glorified  
The law of Moses identified the sin, and God's grace provided forgiveness

VIII)