

**Romans 3:1-8**  
**For the week of October 23, 2022**

**Reflection**

1. What were some of the takeaways, for you, from Sunday's sermon?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Were there questions, comments, concerns...?

In arguing that all people are sinful Paul has drawn attention to the place of the Jew. He is a member of the chosen people, but this does not avail if he sins. But this poses a problem. If a member of the chosen people can be rejected (“become as though ... not ... circumcised”, 2:25), then what is the advantage of belonging to the chosen people? Paul will face this question more fully in chapters 9–11; here he uses a series of lively rhetorical questions in an animated treatment of objections that might be urged against his position. It is not unlikely that these questions reflect objections Paul had actually faced in his dialogue with the Jews, though, of course, we have no way of being sure. Be that as it may, Paul looks first at the objection that, if all people are sinful, the Jew has no advantage. He rejects this outright; the Jew has a very real advantage. A second objection is that, since God has promised to bless his people, he must do this irrespective of what the Jews do. Otherwise, he would cease to be faithful. Paul will have nothing to do with such a suggestion. God will always prove to be faithful.<sup>1</sup>

**Observation** (vs. 1-2)

3. Summarize what Paul is writing.

**Interpretation**

4. Why is Paul asking these two questions?

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<sup>1</sup> Leon Morris, *The Epistle to the Romans*, The Pillar New Testament Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI; Leicester, England: W.B. Eerdmans; Inter-Varsity Press, 1988), 151–152.

5. Why does Paul answer the questions in "Much in every way"?

6. How have we been entrusted with the Word of God?

**Application**

7. What advantage do you have in attending church?

8. What value is your participation in baptism and communion?

**Observation** (vs. 3-4)

9. What is Paul saying in these verses?

**Interpretation**

10. Paul quotes from Psalm 51:4. Read Psalm 51. How does this chapter parallel Paul's message?

**Application**

11. Is God's judgment more favorable towards you because you attend church regularly, give money, and/or volunteer? Why or why not?

**Observation** (vs. 5-6)

12. Summarize these verses.

**Interpretation**

13. How does our unrighteousness serve to show the righteousness of God?

14. How is God's wrath righteous?

**Application**

15. Does a righteous God who has wrath against sin and is the Judge of the world bring you hope? Why or why not?

**Observation** (vs.7-8)

16. What are these questions really asking?

**Observation**

17. How do you respond to the false interpretation of Paul's teaching, "Why not continue to do evil so that God's goodness increases?" (vs. 8) How do you defend your response with Scripture?

**Application**

18. What has God been revealing to you through these verses?