

Romans 3

Jesus

- **4 Witnesses condemn Jews in Ch. 2** [Wiersbe]

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| 1. Gentiles | 2:1-3 | Non-believers living just as righteously |
| 2. God's Blessing | 2:4-11 | God's Goodness did not lead to repentance |
| 3. God's Law | 2:12-24 | Possession of Law did not lead to practice |
| 4. Circumcision | 2:25-29 | Morphed into means of Salvation/Idolatry |

I. Accusation God is not Just

1 What **advantage then has the Jew**, or what is the profit of circumcision?
2 Much in every way! Chiefly because to them were committed the **oracles of God.**

Paul writing to Gentile church in Rome

Equipping Saints with Answers: Questions Religious Jews might ask

Q. What benefit does a Jew have over a Gentile?

A. Much: To you God committed His Word!

The very Words of the Living God were committed to the Jews

3 For **what if some did not believe?** Will their unbelief make the faithfulness of God without effect? 4 **Certainly not!**

Q. If Jews w/Scripture don't believe the Gospel... does that mean the Gospel doesn't save?

A. Certainly not: Possessing/Knowing/Quoting Scripture **does not guarantee Salvation**

John 5:37b... [Jesus to Religious Jews] You have neither heard His voice at any time, nor seen His form. 38 **But you do not have His word abiding in you**, because whom He sent, Him you do not believe. 39 You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. 40 **But you are not willing to come to Me** that you may have life.

- **What if some do not believe?** God's Word has still done its work

Isaiah 55:11 ... My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.

Same sun that softens butter hardens clay
Same Word that saves one man also condemns another

- So, what if a religious person quoting Scripture denies Gospel of Grace? **So, what.**

4a... Indeed, **let God be true but every man a liar.**

If every man on earth denied God's Word

God's Word would still be true

4b... As it is written: "That You may be **justified** in Your words, And may **overcome** when You are judged."

When God's Word is questioned...God will always be proven to be right
Word of God: Anvil that has worn out 10,000 hammers

5 But if our unrighteousness demonstrates the righteousness of God, what shall we say? **Is God unjust who inflicts wrath?** (I speak as a man.)

- **I speak as a man?** IOW' only a fallen man would dare ask the question...

Q. If I'm born into sin and can't help sinning and if God in His goodness, forbearance and long-suffering toward me is glorified... **why am I judged?** It all worked out?

- **Same hypothetical argument** might be made by **Judas...**

1. **I know I betrayed Jesus...**but God used it for good
2. **If I had not betrayed Jesus...** He would not have gone to the cross. And...
3. **What if I did not sin to fulfill the Scriptures?** So how can You judge me?

A. [Because] God used your wickedness but it was still **your wickedness**. There was no good or pure motive in your heart at all. It is no credit to you that God brought good out of your evil. **You stand guilty before God.** [Guzik]

- Is God unjust in judging me for something I cannot help doing?

6 Certainly not! For then how **will God judge the world?**

Paul dismisses the question of his opponent easily. If things were such as his opponent suggested, then God could judge no one. [Guzik]

The question is not why does God judge me for my sin
The real question is... Why would God step in to save anyone?

7 For **if the truth of God** has increased through my lie to His glory, why am I also still judged as a sinner?

Doesn't the end justify the means? Not in God's Economy

8 And why not [just] say, "**Let us do evil that good may come**"? —as we are **slanderosly reported** and as some affirm that we say. Their condemnation is just.

Argumentum ad Absurdum/Absurd Argument [Latin]

Romans 6:1 [Again in Rom. 5:20 Where sin abounds grace all the more] What shall we say then? **Shall we continue in sin** that grace may abound? **2** Certainly not! **How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?**

Paul is/will be slandered in Rome for **encouraging sin by the Gospel of Grace**
All Legalists claim the Gospel of Grace leads to sin without restraint.

- **Book of Romans...**

1. **Power of sin** ...is in the Law
2. **Power over sin** ...is in Grace

- The Law kindles lust in the unregenerate man...

1 Corinthians 15:56 ... the **strength of sin is the law.** 57 But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 7:8 ... sin, taking **opportunity by the commandment**, produced in me all manner of evil desire. For apart from the law sin was dead.

- **We stand on God's Grace:** Undeserved Kindness to us

Romans 5:5 ... having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom also we have access by faith **into this grace in which we stand**, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. 3 And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance...

There is no other Gospel than the Gospel of Grace. Free Gift.

Galatians 1:6 I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the **grace of Christ**, to a different gospel, 7 which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. 8 But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. 9 As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed. 10 For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ.

Grace does not remove our need to repent of sin...Grace leads to Repentance
How can we gaze at the cross and sin against our Savior?

SUMMARY Accusation God is not Just

II. Fact All Have Sinned

9 What then? **Are we better** than they?

Q. So, Are Jews better off or not? Are the Religious better off than others?

9b... Not at all. For we have previously charged both Jews and Greeks that they are **all under sin.**

A. We are all equal at the foot of the cross... Perfectly equal sinners

- **All begin under sin....** Adamic/Sinful/Selfish/Fleshly nature beginning at original sin

1. Under the **Penalty of sin** Storing up wrath/Under the hammer coming down
2. Under the **Bondage of sin** Under thumb of the flesh/world/devil/Tyrant Ruler

- **Chapter 1** Gentile World is Guilty
- **Chapter 2** Jewish World is Guilty
- **Chapter 3** Entire World is Guilty [Wiersbe]

All Men are Born under Sin

10 As it is written: "**There is none righteous, no, not one**; 11 There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. 12 They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one."

- **Paul to Jews in Rome:** Read your own Scripture **Psalm 14, 53.**

Ecclesiastes 7:20 For there is **not a just man on earth** who does good And does not sin.

- None righteous
- None who understand
- None who seek God
- All turn aside from the truth
- All become unprofitable. Lit. useless.
- **None do good...**

None do good...no....not one. Semi-comprehensive list? Yet, some people are better than others when compared to others but the standard is Jesus. [NJC]

**We All Fall Short... All begin in desperate need of a Savior.
Some realize their need and throw it all in for Jesus/Rest rely on self**

- **Only 2 Religions...**

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| 1. Self | Self-made man/woman | Not a chance a judgment |
| 2. Jesus | God made man/woman | Judged already and Justified |

Non righteous/...with understanding/...on right path/...profitable. None good

- **Paul continues quoting OT...**

13 "**Their throat** is an **open tomb**; With their tongues they have **practiced deceit**"; "The poison of asps is **under their lips**"; 14 "Whose **mouth** is full of cursing and bitterness."

- **Their** throat? Context? Whole world has a problem with their mouth

James 3:2 ...we all stumble in many things. If anyone does not **stumble in word**, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body.

Matthew 15:11 Not what goes into the mouth defiles a man; but **what comes out of the mouth, this defiles a man.**

15 "Their feet are **swift to shed blood**; 16 Destruction and misery are in their ways; 17 And the way of peace they have not known." 18 "There is no fear of God before **their eyes.**"

We are not sinners because we sin...We sin because we are sinners

- **Natural bent toward sin...**Quick to respond with hurt

1. **Men** Natural bent toward breaking stuff/wreaking havoc. Why?
2. **Ladies** Natural bent toward Gossip/Slander why?
3. **All** **No fear**/acknowledgment God is watching/Judgment is coming

19 Now we know that whatever the law says, it **says to those who are under the law**, that **every mouth may be stopped**, and all the world may become guilty before God.

With these references from the Psalms, Paul calls virtually every part of man's body into guilt. The throat, tongue, lips, mouth, feet, and eyes are filled with sin and rebellion against God. [Guzik]

- **Mouths stopped left w/no excuses...**

1. **Jews** Stopped by the Law
2. **Gentiles** Stopped by conscience
3. **All** Stopped by Witness of Creation Ch. 1

- All leaving man with no excuse...

The Law does not save but condemns...Doesn't bring Life but Death

Bailiff the verdict for the entire world? **Guilty, before God**

20 Therefore **by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight** for by the law is **the knowledge of sin.**

- **Justified:** Declared Righteous

No flesh is/will be declared righteous in God's sight by keeping the Law

The Law only **reveals our sin** but **we need it gone**

SUMMARY All Have Sinned

III. Offer God's Righteousness

21 But now the **righteousness of God apart from the law** is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets...

- **BUT...**

Between verse 20 and 21 there is a "Grand Canyon" division. We move out of the night and

into the day. Now Paul begins to speak of God's wonderful Salvation. [JV McGee]

There is a righteousness available apart from the Law

Righteousness revealed as the Word became Flesh

Isaiah 1:18 "Come now, and let us reason together," Says the Lord, "Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool."

Matthew 11:28 Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

- Turn from an it to a Him...

John 5:39 You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. 40 But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.

There is a righteousness available to you apart from the Law

22 even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe.

1 Corinthians 1:30 ...you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption— 31 that, as it is written, "He who glories, let him glory in the Lord."

2 Corinthians 5:21... [God] made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

- Equal at foot of the Cross...

22b... For there is no difference; 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...

- No difference in Standing All have Sinned
- No difference in Method Old Rugged Cross

John 14:6 I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

Has your mouth ever been stopped? Are you boasting of your own self-righteousness and defending yourself before God? If so, then perhaps you have never been saved by God's grace. It is only when we stand silent before Him as sinners that He can save us. As long as we defend ourselves and commend ourselves, we cannot be saved by God's Grace. The whole world is guilty before God-and that includes you and me! [Wiersbe]

- Adam, Noah, Abraham ch.4, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, David ch.4, **you and I**

All Men are Born under Sin

We don't need Rehabilitation but Regeneration by the Spirit of God

John 3:3 [Jesus to religious Nicodemus] "Most assuredly, I say to you, **unless one is born again**, he cannot see the kingdom of God." ..." **5** Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. **6** That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. **7** Do not marvel that I said to you, '**You must be born again**' ... **16** For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. **17** For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

- Everyone ever saved was saved by being clothed in the Righteousness of God
- Salvation by Grace Alone through Faith Alone in Christ Alone

**The Just [declared righteous] will live [become alive] by faith
Faith in the finished work of Jesus on the Cross**

- **Righteousness we must receive...**

1 John 1:8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. **9** If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to **cleanse us from all unrighteousness**. **10** If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

- **Realize I fall short**/Receive the gift of God's Righteousness
- All have sinned and fall short...

24... being **justified freely** by His **grace** through the **redemption** that is in Christ Jesus, **25** whom God set forth as a **propitiation** by **His blood**, through faith, to demonstrate **His righteousness**, because in **His forbearance** God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, **26** to demonstrate at the present time **His righteousness**, that He might be **just** and the **justifier** of the one who has **faith in Jesus**.

- **Define Terms**

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| 1. Justified | Declared Righteous |
| 2. Freely | Not <i>w/out cost</i> but <i>w/out any cause</i> |
| 3. Grace | Unmerited Favor/Undeserved Kindness |
| 4. Redemption | To buy back from sin, death, devil |

Propitiation: To satisfying God's Holy Law... meeting of its demands, so that God can freely forgive those who come to Christ [Wiersbe]

Propitiation same Word as Mercy Seat

- **OT Day of Atonement:** Atone for sins of Nation of Israel

A sacrifice was required each year on behalf of the people for their sin. Two goats would be brought to the temple. One would be killed, its blood brought into the Holy of Holies which housed the Ark of the Covenant which contained in it the Ten Commandments written on stone. On top of the Ark and was the Mercy Seat. The blood of the sacrifice was sprinkled on the Mercy Seat thus symbolically covering the Law with the Blood. [NJC]

Only Blood could cover the Requirements Law of God

Hebrews 9:22 And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and **without shedding of blood there is no remission** [forgiveness].

What about the Second Goat?

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| 1. Priest lays hand on head | Confesses sins of the people |
| 2. Taken outside/set free | Picture of our sins carried away |

Psalm 103:12 As far as the east is from the west, So far has He **removed our transgressions** from us.

- OT Blood of animals only covered sin... **Jesus came to take them away**

John 1:29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The **Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!**

- Propitiation** Satisfying God's Holy Law/Absorbed on Cross/Cast away forever
- Redemption** The very blood of the Son of God sprinkled on sins of nations

Isaiah 52:14b ... His visage [appearance] was marred more than any man, And His form more than the sons of men; 15 So shall **He sprinkle many nations.**

Final Sprinkling/Final Sacrifice on the Cross...Jesus fulfilled the Law for us By His Sinless Life/His Substitutionary Death. Why?...

- Natural man born with 3 problems...**

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| 1. Unrighteous | Need to be made right | Justification |
| 2. Slaves to sin | Need to be bought back | Redemption |
| 3. Enemies of God | Need to be reconciled | Propitiation |

Justification solves the problem of man's guilt before a righteous Judge. **Redemption** solves the problem of man's slavery to sin, the world, and the devil. **Propitiation** solves the problem of offending our Creator. [Guzik]

God is righteous [Just] in that a holy God must punish sin. God is loving [Justifier] in that He Himself willingly took our punishment. [NJC]

Jesus did it All! Justified us/Redeemed us/Died in our place for us

SUMMARY God's Righteousness through Faith

IV. Boasting Excluded

27 Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? Of works? No, but by the law of faith.

- Concerning our Salvation: God did it all in Jesus** vv 24-26
 - His Grace
 - His Blood
 - His Righteousness

Self-righteousness has no place in the life of a blood bought child of God

- If Salvation came by keeping the Law ...we might boast
- If Salvation came by doing good deeds ...we might boast. **But...**

**Our mouths are shut to any boasting as we see our Savior on the Cross
Jesus gets all the Glory**

28 Therefore we conclude that a man is **justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law.**

- **Gospel/Good News:** We can be righteous apart from anything we do

29 Or is He the God of the Jews only? Is He not also the God of the Gentiles? Yes, of the Gentiles also, 30 since there is one God who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith.

**If Salvation came by the Law... how could the Gentile be saved?
Jesus is the Savior of the World to ALL who put their faith in Him**

John 4:42b... we know that this is indeed the Christ, the **Savior of the world.**"

1 John 4:14 ... the Father has sent the Son as **Savior of the world.**

- **Righteous though faith alone:** Universal Call to All Men

Isaiah 55:1 ... Everyone who thirsts, Come to the waters; And you who have no money, Come, buy and eat. Yes, come, buy wine and milk Without money and **without price.**

John 3:15 ... **whoever believes in Him** should not perish but have eternal life.

Romans 10:13 For "**whoever calls** on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

Revelation 22:17 And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the **water of life freely.**

**To the heathen in Rome this was Good News
Free Gift of Salvation by Faith apart from the Law**

31 Do we then make void the law through faith? Certainly not! On the contrary, we **establish the law.**

- **Faith in Christ establishes the Law**

Law can have three different meanings in this passage, and the **gospel fulfills all of these** meanings. If the law here refers to the Law of Moses, the Pentateuch, then the passage is referring to the way Jesus completely fulfilled the requirements of the law. If law is the entire Old Testament, then the Gospel fulfills the promise of the coming of Christ and of the forgiveness of sins. If the law is the moral law, then the gospel fulfills it because it is through Christ that people are empowered by the Holy Spirit to live in a way that pleases God. [Nelson]

1. All under sin/None Righteous
2. Must be Righteous to go to Heaven

3. Can't be righteous by our own efforts...

Hopeless? Far from it...

Romans 3:21 But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed

- **Realize I fall short**/Receive the gift of God's Righteousness

SUMMARY Boasting Excluded