



7/21/25

I LOVE the fact that we've been adopted by the Lord. And I love what we learned from the message yesterday... that our adoption means that our POSITION in Him means we have full rights as His child, He has given us a PART in His plan, and my favorite... we are in close PROXIMITY to our heavenly Dad. And someday, we will be in such close PROXIMITY, we will see Him face to face. AND there are no black sheep in the family of God. Amen!

*Blessings,
Jonna*

Romans 3:1-8 ~

I'm not exactly sure what backgrounds made up the Roman church. I imagine it was started by Jewish converts to Christianity, and then had many Gentiles added to it as the gospel spread throughout Rome. But the Jewish people had been called the Chosen people of God, and so they had a sense that God showed partiality to them. And then they may have felt like they deserved special honor since they started the Roman church. That's just speculation on my part. I have no idea if I'm right. But for sure, they had a perspective that they had an advantage over other believers. Paul was blowing that mindset up.

In vs. 1 Paul said, "Then what advantage has the Jew? Or what is the value of circumcision?" If true circumcision is a matter of the heart as it said at the end of chapter 2, what does it matter that someone is Jewish? Well, to begin with, God entrusted His word to them. It was through the Jews that the Holy Spirit revealed the truth and had them write it down. Almost all the authors of the Bible came from a Jewish heritage. In fact, the only author who is thought to have been a Gentile, was Luke, the author of the Gospel of Luke and Acts. So Jewish people had the privilege of writing down the truth of God's word.

So... that's great that the Holy Spirit moved Jewish men to write the Bible... but what about Jews who were unfaithful to God, as the Old Testament shows that so many were? Vs. 3 is translated, "What if some were unfaithful?" The Greek word brings me a lot more clarity. It says, "What if some did not BELIEVE?" What makes someone unfaithful? DOUBT, UNBELIEF.

I'm not going to faithfully follow someone if I doubt them, or don't believe they're authentic. The Old Testament is filled with stories of Jews (and Gentiles) who were not faithful to God because they doubted God.

So... does their unfaithfulness mean God's faithfulness is not credible? It's very easy to think that. So many people say they won't go to church because they judge the faithfulness of God by the unfaithfulness of people in the church. But God remains true even if I don't. Even if every single person on earth is found to be a liar, God remains true.

Here Paul quotes from Psalm 51:4, the psalm of repentance David wrote after he was confronted for sinning against the Lord with Bathsheba and killing her husband Uriah... David said, "Against You only have I sinned and done what is evil in Your sight." Then he added the part that is quoted here in Romans 3, "That You may be justified in Your words and prevail when You are judged." No matter what I do or what any man does, God is innocent in behavior and justified in everything He says. I can't stand in judgment against God and win. He is justified in all that He says, and He will always have the victory, even when people try to pass judgment on Him.

Vs. 5 shows that there were people way back then who thought like some people think today... The thought is, "My unrighteousness serves to show the righteousness of God. Therefore, if God punishes me for my unrighteousness, He's unfair." That is some pretty twisted thinking... but pretty common. I will search for any proof to argue that God should give me what I want, and that I shouldn't be held accountable for it. But that doesn't change what's true. God is not at fault for my sin. He is the righteous Judge. He WILL judge this world.

So the next human argument I might make is, "Well, if my dishonesty makes God's truth more magnified, and if my dishonor points to how honorable He is, He should be thanking me, not judging me as a sinner. I should be viewed as helping God by doing evil." That's CRAZY TALK. And yet, it is an argument people make. Why??? This is all an attempt to prove that I am good and God is not... or at least that I am as good as God. I don't even come close. No amount of arguing or pontificating will give me the right to tell God how to run things. I need God. No matter who I am, I cannot justify any actions that go against the holiness of God.

All Paul has written up until this point... and a little past this part... is the bad news I need to understand... I have no hope without God. The good news is coming... He IS my hope. But if I don't understand my desperate need for Him, I won't understand His incredible gift to me. O Lord, please help me not to claim innocence and help me not to blame You for my sin. You are righteous. You are the Judge. You have all authority. Because of Your power and authority, Your love changes my life. Because of Your incredible love, You use Your power and authority to give me life. Praise Your name!