

Romans 3:1-4

Jewish Advantage

1. A New Chapter

- a. Rom 1:16-20 gave 4 historic witnesses: creation, conscience, scripture, apostle of Christ
 - i. Paul has not quoted scripture since 1:17, but will again in 3:4
 - ii. 1:17 is scripture witnessing God's righteousness: the just shall live by faith
 - iii. Ch. 3 will change from judgment to justification, from sin to faith ~3:21-22
 - iv. Ch. 3-4 will be Paul's case for justification by faith from the scriptures.
- b. First, 4 objections concerning God's righteousness - 3:1,3,5,9 - "?" 11x in 9 verses

2. 3:1-2 - Jewish Advantage

- a. 2:21-29 - Left the Jew as a law breaker without excuse and circumcision meaningless.
- b. *"what advantage/profit?"* If the law made it harder, and circumcision is of the heart
 - i. A rebuke is a help, communication is a privilege - Prov 27:5, 28:23, Matt 18:15
- c. *"much every way"* - Which means we are still considering Israel in time past
- d. Oracles ~*def.* Instruments of communicating God's words (temple, prophet, scripture)
 - i. The law called 'lively oracles' - Acts 7:38 - NT royal priests as oracles - 1 Pet 4:11
 - ii. "the word is very nigh unto thee, in thy mouth, and in thy heart" - Deu 30:14
 - iii. Jesus said, "we [Jews] know what we worship" - John 4:22
- e. The failure of the Jew, while still having advantage describes a better covenant.

3. 3:3 - The Unbelief of Some

- a. This is the objection of those who call out wicked ministers to denounce God.
- b. A popular objection of truth today made from man's unbelief (universalism, atheism)
 - i. Your unbelief (or theirs) does not affect God's veracity, existence, righteousness
- c. *"some did not believe"* - Some of Israel, Unbelief not a rare occurrence in Jewish history
 - i. Wicked generations, wicked kings, false prophets, doubtful saints, etc.
 - ii. *'God gave Israel up when they killed their Messiah'* <-- Wrong - Acts 3:17-19
- d. *"faith of God without effect"* - Does His judgment annul his promises? Gal 3:17
 - i. God made promises, covenants none else could claim - Rom 9:4-5
- e. *"faith of God"* - not God having faith, but what is to be believed - Rom 9:6, 10:16, 11:26
 - i. God is faithful to keep them, even after judgment - Jer 29:10, Mic 7:20, Mal 1:2

4. 3:4 - Let God Be True

- a. *"God forbid"* - A supposed KJ translation error, but no. 1) it is idiomatic, 2) et tu, NASB?
- b. *"God be true"* - He cannot be untrue - 2 Tim 2:13, Num 23:19, Titus 1:2
- c. *"every man a liar"* - the pill hard to swallow by a postmodern world - Prov 21:2, Ps 62:9
- d. God is true when sinners admit iniquity, witnessed by scripture - Exo 9:27, Neh 9:33,
- e. *"thou mightiest be justified"* - God declared right, as in Luke 7:29 and 1Ti 3:16
- f. *"when thou art judged"* - God is judged in this context, but he is the judge in Ps 51:4
 - i. God overcomes and clears himself in Job 40:6-8, 42:6-7 and in Revelation

Romans 1-8 summaries:

1-3: The problem	3-5: The solution	5-8: The conclusion
1-3: Condemnation	3-5: Justification	5-8: Sanctification
1-3: Old Testament	3-4: New Testament	5-8: Mystery of Christ
1-3: Cross prophesied	3-5: Cross explained	5-8: Cross applied
1-3: Our unrighteousness	3-5: God's righteousness	5-8: Righteousness fulfilled
1-3: The reprobate mind	3-5: The repentant mind	5-8: The renewed mind
1-3: Faith without works	3-5: Justified by faith	5-8: Sanctified by faith
1-3: The law of sin	3-5: The law of faith	5-8: The law of the Spirit
1-3: What we did/who we were	3-5: What he did for us	5-8: Who we are now