

Romans 3:5-9

Vengeance and Damnation

1. 3:5 - I Speak as a Man

- a. This passage is most needed by anyone that objects to God's judgment.
- b. *"our unrighteousness"* - Paul proves the Jew unrighteous since ch. 2 (see 2:17-29)
- c. *"commend the r. of God"* - God prophesied Israel's sin - Rom 2:24, Acts 2:23, 4:28
 - i. If evil results in good, evil commends good, then it is necessary. (Nope)
 - ii. Good triumphs over evil, how can a righteous God judge that which he needs?
- d. *"I speak as a man"* - A man trying to excuse himself from the sentence - 1:18
- e. When proven guilty, deserving of wrath, men bargain and blame (refuse to accept)
 - i. v1 - 'What profit is there?' - God said there was, it was all a sham.
 - ii. v3 - 'What about unbelief?' - God is unreliable and has no effect.
 - iii. v5 - 'If he needs us is God unfair?' - God is evil, cruel, uses us for selfish ends.
 - iv. (An honest look shows each of these blames are true of the accuser)

2. 3:6 - The Vengeance of God

- a. God doesn't need sin. God did not create sin - Isa 45:7
 - i. Sin is of the world, man, and the Devil Jn 8:44, Rom 5:12, 1 John 2:16
 - ii. Good never comes from sin, good comes from God - Gen 50:20
 - iii. Sin produces shame, death, damnation - it has no good effect.
- b. *"taketh vengeance"* - It is understood that vengeance will be taken by God.
- c. Vengeance ~*def.* To return or repay affliction for an offense; punishment; retribution.
 - i. *"Vengeance is mine"* - De 32:35, Heb 10:28-31, Rom 12:19-21, 13:4
 - ii. God is the avenger and revenger - Ps 94:1-3, Nah 1:2, 6-9, 1 Thess 4:6
- d. *"God forbid"* - If he cannot avenge Israel truly, then he can judge no one.
- e. *"how shall God judge"* - If vengeance is unrighteous then all judgment is.
 - i. This argument contradicts Calvinism, antinomianism, universalism

3. 3:7-8 - Slandering Paul, Justifying God

- a. *"If..."* - Paul takes the false argument of 3:5-6 and applies it to his Jewish accusers
- b. *"truth abounded"* - Whether Paul was right or wrong acc. to the false argument of 3:5
- c. *"my lie"* - What others said of Paul's testimony - Rom 9:1, 2Co 11:31, Gal 1:20, 1Ti 2:7
- d. *"judged as a sinner"* - Paul imprisoned by Jews for speaking truth - 2 Tim 2:8-9
- e. *"slanderingly reported"* - that sin should abound b/c grace - Rom 6:1, 7:7, Acts 21:21
- f. *"Let us do evil, that good may come"* - their argument against God used against them
 - i. *"do evil, that good may come"* - 'End justifies means' always wrong and wicked
- g. *"whose damnation is just"* - If what they said is true, they are just in damning him.
 - i. If it was not, then they are rightly damned for slandering him.
 - ii. Either way, God is just to damn sinners, take vengeance, and judge sin.