

Romans Chapter 3

Introduction:

Paul continues to move towards the presentation of the major theme of this letter: justification by faith alone. In chapter two, the impartiality of God is asserted especially with regard to the Jews. Just as the Jews could not claim righteousness based on religion or nationality, Paul states that the Gentiles cannot claim righteousness based on human goodness. Paul will continue to develop the understanding that the Law is not a source of righteousness but in reality, it is that which gives the knowledge of sin.

As you experience the Lord through chapter three, keep in mind the overall theme of Romans and the nature of God as outlined in the rest of the Bible. Don't get weighed down by the references to Judaism. Continue to allow the Lord to bring daily application to your life. Bring the Word home to you and let Him transform your life.

Date: Monday, January 28

Scripture: Romans 3:1-8

Theme: You Can't Make Wrong Right

- If circumcision carried no sacramental value, did the Jews have an advantage?
 - Their advantage was the fact that they had received the Law of God
 - What Paul states is that advantage cannot be translated into superiority
- God's faithfulness is a central aspect of His unchanging nature
 - The fact that we have not responded to His grace does in no way effect His continued expression of faithfulness to us.
- The counter thought is, "If our sin intensifies the reality of God's righteousness then...
 - The next step in this progression is to justify sin as beneficial
 - While this may sound unbelievable, consider the fact that many believers live in sin while justifying it as beneficial due to the things they gain.

- If the results of sin bring about a deceived belief that it is beneficial, then how can I consider it to be sin for me?
- Our ability to cleverly justify sin serves only to demonstrate the extent of our sinfulness.
- Conclusion: You can't make wrong right!

Date: Tuesday, January 29

Scripture: Romans 3:9-18

Theme: The Proof is in the Pearls

This section is an example of “charaz.” This is a stringing together of “pearls” from the Old Testament in order to substantiate a claim. These pearls are used to show that all who are apart from Christ are under the authority of sin. The “advantage” given to the Jews is now used by Paul to show the universality of sin—both Jew and Gentile.

- Note the singular form of sin used in verse 9.
- Here a suggested outline from “the pearls.”
 - Verses 10-11: The character of sinfulness
 - Verse 12: The results of sinfulness
 - Verses 13-18: The manifestations of sinfulness
 - Verses 13-14: Speech
 - Verses 15-17: Our walk
 - Verse 18: Our spiritual life
- It is suggested that verse 18, possibly verse 20, is the end of the first major section of Romans where Paul deals with the need for justification. This sets the stage for the theme of Romans to be asserted and proven.

Date: Wednesday, January 30

Scripture: Romans 3:19-20

Theme: Everyone Accountable

- Accountable to God—not only awareness of sin but responsible for it.
- Justified—though completely guilty, treated as if completely innocent
- The Law can only indict us, it cannot judge us

Date: Thursday, January 31

Scripture: Romans 3:21-26

Theme: Justified by Faith Alone

Here Paul begins to give us the foundational truth of our salvation in Christ—we are justified by faith alone.

Pay attention to his use of these words and phrases:

- Apart—without
- Faith in Jesus Christ
- Believe
- Fall short—to come up lacking
- Gift
- Redemption
- Publicly
- Propitiation: satisfaction—mercy seat--atonement
- Passed over
- Justifier

Date: Friday, February 1

Scripture: Romans 3:27-31

Theme: One God—One Way

- The cross strips away any human boasting
 - The only thing we have to boast in apart from Christ is our sin. We all fall short and are accountable to God for our sin.
 - We can only boast in Christ therefore humility is now our proper response
- “Law of faith” Faith in Jesus has been established as the standard by which we are judged—not the works of the Law or human goodness
- “Sin is no longer such a matter of breaking God’s Law as it is breaking God’s heart.”
- The Law of faith is the only way to fulfill the righteous requirements of the Law of God.