

Romans 3

Romans 3:1-8 - The Gospel Advantage!

Scriptures:
Hebrews 11:6 - But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

¹ What advantage then has the Jew, or what

G4053 – “advantage (quality) n. — the quality of having a superior or more favorable position.”

Notes:
The first eight verses of chapter three continue the thought Paul expounded upon in the second half chapter two – the false confidence of the Jews that they were right with God simply because they were Jews.

In these eight verses we have four questions with their responding answers. In this section, we see a contrast between the faithlessness and unrighteousness or injustice of man and the faithfulness and justice and righteousness of God.

is the profit of circumcision?

G5622 – benefit, value, advantage.

Scriptures:
1 Corinthians 2:13-14 - These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. 14 But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

² Much in every way! Chiefly because

to them were committed the oracles of God.

G4100 – “to be entrusted (state) v. — to be or become the recipient of something placed into one's care.”

G3051 – saying, word. Scriptures.

Notes:
Paul has already said that God revealed Himself to the world through His creation. Here, Paul says the Jews have the advantage of the revelation of God through His written word, the Scriptures. What an awesome privilege to have been chosen to communicate and carry the written Word of God to the world. Paul is going to go on to say that such a privilege should have resulted in faithfulness to God who had entrusted the precious Word of God to them.

As Christ-followers, we must never cease to rejoice that we have the written Word of God. It is easy to buy a Bible. It is the bestselling book of all time with over 5 billion sold worldwide. Having a Bible is not the same as having the Word of God. The Bible reveals the nature, character, ways, and will of God. The Bible also teaches us what God thinks about man and defines our purpose in this world. Without the Spirit of God and faith in Christ, the Bible is little better than a history book and self-help book (1 Corinthians 2:13-14).

Scriptures:

³ For what if some  did not believe? Will their 

G569 – not think
true, not trust.

Notes:

The basic question here is, can unbelief cause God to break His promises or go against what He has said.

You can have a Bible and even read it and memorize Scriptures, but if by faith, you do not put your trust in Christ and become indwelt by the Holy Spirit, it will not benefit you – it won't save you – you must believe.

Mankind's unbelief doesn't change God. People may regularly say something like, "If God is real, then...!" Why did my baby or spouse die? Why did I lose my job? Why is there evil in the world? God's Word may not answer those questions to your satisfaction, but faith in the God of the Word helps to accept the unanswered questions of life.

unbelief make the faithfulness of God 

G4102 –
trustworthiness.

without effect?

G2673 – "to inactivate v.
— to cause something to
become idle, inactive,
inoperative, or useless."

Scriptures:

Psalm 51:4 – Against You,
You only, have I sinned,
And done this evil in Your
sight—
That You may be found
just when You speak,
And blameless when You
judge.

⁴ Certainly not! Indeed, let God be true but 

G227 -

Notes:

Just because someone doesn't believe God's Word is truth doesn't make it false. In fact, if you do not believe God's Word, you are the one who is wrong. The entire Bible is truth and true. Every word is God-breathed and will help us to live lives that please God. Every word is true. Every promise is true. Every command is true. Every warning is true.

Paul paraphrases (Psalm 51:4). King David wrote this Psalm after he was confronted about his sin with Bathsheba.

every man a liar. As it is written: *That You *

may be justified in Your words, and may 

G1344 –
vindicated,
declared
righteous.

overcome when You are judged." 

Scriptures:

⁵ But if ~~our~~ unrighteousness demonstrates

the righteousness of ~~God~~, what shall ~~we~~ say?

Notes:

[verses 5-6] – When diamonds are displayed, they usually are placed on a black background because the radiance of the gem is more visible. This is suggesting that God uses the unrighteousness of men as a backdrop for His glory. It is a suggestion that God is benefitting from sin and unrighteousness. It is implying that there is some unrighteousness in God. Paul is saying, if that is true why does God pour out His wrath on the unrighteous?

/s ~~God~~ unjust who inflicts ~~wrath~~? (I speak as

G2018 – bring upon.

G3709 – “wrath (punishment) n. — the punitive outworking of God’s righteous indignation at sin; perhaps describing an anger long-building.”

a man.)

Scriptures:

⁶ Certainly not! For then how will ~~God~~ judge

the world?

Notes:

God gets no benefit from sin and unrighteousness.

“If there were any possibility of God’s being unrighteous, then how could He be fit to judge the world?” (MacDonald, 1990) page 501

For God to judge the world because of unrighteousness, He must be perfectly righteous.

7 For if the truth of God has increased through

my lie to His glory, why am I also still judged

as a sinner?

⁸ And *why* not *say*, "Let *us* do evil that good

may come"—as *we* are slanderously

reported and as some affirm that *we* say.

Their condemnation is just.

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Notes:

If God's glory is seen more clearly because of my sin, then I should sin more! This is a foolish and ridiculous argument. Paul will elaborate on this in chapter 6.

As Christ-followers, we have an advantage over the lost – those who do not know God or choose not to believe in God. Our advantage is that we have the Word of God. The Bible is God's self-revelation – it is everything God wants us to know about Him, His kingdom, and His plan for this world. Through God's Word we also discover what God wants us to know about our relationship with Him, our place in His kingdom, and our role in the world.

The better we know, trust, and obey God's Word, the more confidently we can walk through this life. We are also less troubled by the storms of this life and better able to help those around us. We also experience the power of the Holy Spirit moving in and through our lives.

Next time, Paul will ask if those advantages make us better than others. The answer is, absolutely not. While we have an advantage in spiritual things, we are all sinners. The only difference is that we are sinners saved by the amazing grace of God through faith in Christ Jesus. We should not use our advantage as an excuse to sin, but as a motivation to walk humbly with God in faith and obedience. God's glory will shine even in our unrighteousness but it shine so much brighter when we walk in the power of the Holy Spirit.