

Series "How Great A Salvation"
"Jewish Advantage"
Romans 3:1-8
Study-8

Romans 1:18-3:20 – Condemnation (World)

The Jews, Guilty – 2:17-3:8. This indictment is 2 parts: **Romans 2:17-29 – False Hope Of Religion; Romans 3:1-8 – The Advantage Of The Jew.**

Romans 2:29

At this point, the Jew is extremely frustrated and wants to know if religion, with God's commandments and rituals, was any good.

Thought Of Our Passage: "To Whom Much Is Given, Much Is Required. So, Each Will Be Judged For Privileges That God Has Entrusted."

1. Verses 1-2 – 1st Objection: Is Paul Undermining God's Covenant?

2. Verses 3-4 – 2nd Objection: Is Paul Attacking God's Promises?

3. Verses 5-6 – 3rd Objection: Does Paul Attack God's Purity?

4. Verses 7-8 – 4th Objection: Does Paul Attack God's Honesty?

1. Verses 1-2 – 1st Objection: Is Paul Undermining God's Covenant?

Romans 3:1 – "Then what advantage has the Jew?" – Context: Paul, in previous passage, Romans 2:17-29, Indicted the religious folks, the Jews.

1. Jews thought they were safe because they were sons of Abraham.
2. Safe because they possessed the Law.
3. Safe because they received the rite of circumcision.

Romans 2:29

Paul is anticipating what the Jewish readers were thinking and what their questions would be so he presents 4 imaginary objections in the form of a question:

"Then what advantage has the Jew?" – The word "advantage" – "overflow, over plus." Is the Jew in a better position to be saved than the Gentile?"

"Or what is the benefit of circumcision?" – This rite of covenant with God as His people.

Romans 11:11-12; 25-27

Verse 2 – Paul’s Answer: Romans 3:2

Paul answers the question – Romans 3:1 – “Then what advantage has the Jew?”

“Great in every respect.” – “much every way;” There are great privileges to being a Jew!

“First of all,” – Most importantly. This was one of the greatest privileges that they had.

“that they were entrusted with the oracles of God.” – Meant “properly speaking, the message or the voice of God, logos or word of God, revelation of God’s will and purpose.” This is the OT Scriptures, Psalm 147:19-20.

“entrusted” – “possession of the utterances of God, privilege and a great benefit to Israel;” “were a trust committed to the Jews for the common benefit of mankind, keepers of the Holy Writ for the world.”

Great Privilege – The Bible reveals to us who the true God is. His will and purpose. Man’s true condition, salvation offered through God!

God took one man named Abram and made him into a great nation so that they (Nation) could be ambassadors to the lost world.

Great Responsibility – because they had a preview of these great truths, there was great responsibility, Luke 24:44.

Hebrews 10:26-27

The Jews focused upon their privileges and failed in their responsibilities!

Then what advantage has the Christian? Same – much in every way! We are people of the Book! The OT and Now NT.

2. Verses 3-4 – 2nd Objection: Is Paul Attacking God’s Promises?

Romans 3:3 – “What then? If some did not believe,” – Many; The Jews knew that they did not believe, Exodus 19:1-6.

“their unbelief will not nullify (invalidate) the faithfulness of God, will it?” – Romans 9-11 – God never promised Israel that being a Jew was automatic salvation in all cases, in all time; Jews must come in faith alone? Matthew 21:33-45

The Reasoning: If we have failed, how can you say that we are privileged?

"nullify (invalidate) the faithfulness of God, will it?" – One thing is sure, that is the faithfulness of God. God will always be true to His promise, 2 Timothy 2:13.

The problem is not with God being faithful to His promise but man being confused as to what God promises to man.

Romans 3:4

Romans 3:3

Verse 4 – Paul's Answer: "May it never be!" – "God forbid"

God's Truth Is Unbreakable: "Rather, let God be found true, though every man be found a liar," – God is vindicated by His Word, not by our circumstances.

God's Righteousness Over (Against) Man's Sinfulness: "as it is written, "THAT YOU MAY BE JUSTIFIED IN YOUR WORDS, AND PREVAIL WHEN YOU ARE JUDGED." – Psalm 51:4.

3. Verses 5-6 – 3rd Objection: Does Paul Attack God's Purity?

Romans 3:5

Does Unrighteousness Actually Enhance God's Righteousness? – "But if our unrighteousness demonstrates the righteousness of God," – God is accused of using the sin of the Jews to show His righteousness.

"what shall we say? The God who inflicts wrath is not unrighteous, is He?" – God is being accused of using the Jews to show off His righteousness. If that is so, He is not a fair judge.

Verses 5-6 – Paul's Answer: "(I am speaking in human terms.)" – As a natural man would reason.

Romans 3:6 – "May it never be!" – Or "Certainly Not!" God forbid that God ordained sin to receive glory! (Horror of the thought)

"For otherwise how will God judge the world?" – If our sin honors God, and God arranges for man to sin, then there should not be a judgment upon the world! God should remove all judgment! Genesis 18:25

Sin is never honorable. Sin always has evil results, Galatians 6:8.

4. Verses 7-8 – 4th Objection: Does Paul Attack God’s Honesty?

Romans 3:7 – “But if through my lie the truth of God abounded to His glory,” – Let me reason this out. If through my lies, deceptions, God is being glorified right?

“why am I also still being judged as a sinner?” – How could God judge me for glorifying Him? If glory came out of my sin, why is there any punishment for my wrong actions?

Romans 3:8 – “Let us do evil that good may come”? Let’s Remove All Differences Between Good And Evil! The end justifies the means!

Paul Does Not Answer This Question: “Their condemnation is just.” – An argument like this is self-condemned. Religion exempts no one from sin!

Application:

1. When Paul Said That Both Jews And Gentiles Were Equal, Paul Was Referring To Being Equal In Guilt And Equal In The Need Of Divine Justification.
2. The Great Danger Of The Religious Was In Their Focusing Upon Their Privileges And Then Failing In Their Responsibilities.
3. The End Never Justifies The Means. Sin Is Never Honorable. Sin Always Has Evil Results. God Is Merciful; God Is The God Of Forgiveness. God Is Magnified Through His Great Mercy And Grace.
4. To Whom Much Is Given, Much Is Required. So, Each Will Be Judged For Privileges That God Has Entrusted.