

Romans 3

Romans 3.1-8 – Three questions

V1 – After “demolishing” the Jews in *Ch. 2*, Paul began *Ch. 3* by asking three questions

-**First question?** Is there any value to the history of the Jewish people?

V2 – **What is his answer to that question?** Great value, because God entrusted them with his "oracles"

-**Explain “the oracles of God”?** Ten Commandments, Old Testament, the writings of the prophets

-**What is the value of the Old Testament?** *Galatians 3.24* – A schoolmaster to lead us to Christ

-**Would we miss anything by not having the Old Testament? Read Romans 15.4**

-**From what characters in the Old Testament can we learn great lessons?**

-All the characters in the Old Testament can teach us great lessons!

-Joseph

-Jacob

-David and Bethesda and death of Absalom

-We could list dozens of heroes of the Old Testament, and their lives would teach us many great principles of the faith)

-Think about *Hebrews 11*

V3-4 – **Second question?** Because some of the Old Testament Jews did not believe, does that mean that God was not faithful and reliable? Of course not

-**Even if all people forsake God, does that destroy validity of God?** Absolutely not

-Quote from *Psalms 51.4*

-God’s wisdom is “judged” on the basis of his judgment, not on the basis of our response

V5 – **Third question?** Paul is asking, "If my sin demonstrates the faithfulness of God, then is it a good thing that I have sinned?"

-In other words, the more humans sin, the better God looks! So should I just keep on sinning to make God look better?

V6 – Of course, we should never sin just to make God look good

-That is the philosophy of the antinomians (that there is no law for us to obey, it is all a case of grace)

-If that is true, then how would he judge the world, since he would have encouraged us to sin?

-That would be a very distorted philosophy

V7 – **Paul is making the hypothetical point that if his sin made God look better, then why would Paul be judged as a sinner?** This is a rather complicated argument, but he is still refuting the reasoning of the antinomians (those who were against the concept of law in the New Testament)

V 8 – Paul did not want people to say that morality was relative, that there were no absolute standards of righteousness under the New Covenant – that would be false reasoning

Romans 3.9-18

V 9 – Explain “Are we better than they?” Jesus is greater than both Jews and Gentiles, because all are under sin (the condemnation of all humans by sin)

V 10-12 - A quote from *Psalm 14.1-3*

V 13 - A quote from *Psalm 5.9* and *Psalm 140.3*

V 14 - A quote from *Psalm 10.7*

V 15-17 - A quote from *Isaiah 59.7-8*

V 18 – A quote from *Psalm 36.1*

-**What is the message of these passages?** That all have sinned (proven by the Old Testament)

Romans 3.19-20

V 19-20 – The Old Law merely convicted people – it didn’t save them

-**Example:** Jesus with woman taken in adultery – no one could cast the first stone, because they were all guilty of sin

Romans 3.21-26

V 21-22 – A reference to whom? Jesus, the one through whom salvation comes today

-**What bore witness of the coming of Christ?** The Law and the prophets

V 23 – All have sinned, and no human is perfect

-**Any heroes in history?** Andrew Jackson, but look at his attitude about Indians and slavery

-Franklin D. Roosevelt – mistress

-John F. Kennedy – common hero among many people, but he got us into Vietnam and had many sexual affairs, etc.

-All of us probably admired someone while we were growing up, but what a shock it was to find out that that person had serious flaws

-Only perfect people we know are the children (maybe mischievous, but not sinful)

-All have sinned, even the great heroes of human history

V 24 – As sinful people, how are we justified before God? Only through Jesus Christ

-**How do people in the world try to justify themselves?** By their own deeds, which might

be great in the eyes of the world
-But salvation is a gift that comes through our faith in Christ

V 25 – **What happens to the many sins that we bring to Christ when we want to be saved and are ready to be baptized?** Our "previous sins" are passed over, because of the blood of Christ

V 26 – Christ is just and is the justifier – **Explain?** Christ is perfect (just) and thereby justifies us as his brethren and as the adopted children of God

V 27 – **Why can there be no boasting?** We are not justified by our works, so we cannot brag that we were saved because of how much money we donated to the church, how many times we cleaned the church building, how many homeless people we helped, how many orphans we took into our homes, etc.

Romans 3.27-31

V 28 – Not a single human being can ever brag over his life and how it caused him to be saved
-There can be no boasting before God

V 29 – We are justified by our faith
-**Where do works come into God's plan for us?** Because of our faith, we work for God (it cannot be a faith with no works)
-See *James 2.14-26*

V 30 – God justifies both the circumcised and the uncircumcised, on the basis of their faith

V 31 – We do not eliminate the concept of "law" just because we are saved through faith
-Quite the contrary, we accept the "law" of God in our lives

Lessons from Ch. 3

- Good conclusion to *Romans 3*: See *Colossians 2.20-23*
- Characteristics of the law:
 - Colossians 2.14* – The Old Law ended with the cross
 - Galatians 3.19* – The Old Law was temporary
 - Galatians 3.13* – Christ redeemed us from curse of the Law of Moses
 - Romans 11.6* – We are saved by grace, not by works that we think will earn us salvation

Revised 2013-02-04