

## #14 - Romans 3:1-8

Romans 1:1-17- The Gospel Explained: It's About King Jesus and is Powerfully Available to All Who Will Believe

Romans 1:18-32 - The World is in Bad Shape - Destined for Wrath

Romans 2:1-11 - God Shows No Partiality in Judgment

Romans 2:12-29 - The Jews Are Also in Bad Shape - Destined for the Same Judgment

- Paul's intention [in chapter 2] was not to deny that the Jews have privileges that the Gentiles do not have, but to contest the notion that these privileges give to the Jew an advantage in the judgement. (Douglas Moo, 181)

## Romans 3:1-8

### Jewish Advantage

*3:1-2 - Then what advantage has the Jew? Or what is the value of circumcision? <sup>2</sup> Much in every way. To begin with, the Jews were entrusted with the oracles of God.*

- "One of the Jews' greatest privileges is the fact that God has revealed to them both his character and His plans." (St. Helen's Bishopsgate, p. 60)
  - *Deut. 4:8 - <sup>8</sup> And what great nation is there, that has statutes and rules so righteous as all this law that I set before you today?*
  - *Rom. 9:4-5 - <sup>4</sup> They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises. <sup>5</sup> To them belong the patriarchs, and from their race, according to the flesh, is the Christ, who is God over all, blessed forever. Amen.*

### God is "true"

*3:3-4 - <sup>3</sup> What if some were unfaithful? Does their faithlessness nullify the faithfulness of God? <sup>4</sup> By no means! Let God be true though every one were a liar, as it is written, "That you may be justified in your words, and prevail when you are judged."*

- How was Israel unfaithful?
  - "The point about being 'entrusted' is that the thing that's been given to you isn't actually for you; it's for the person to whom you supposed to deliver it....Israel has been faithless, a useless messenger." (Wright, 43-44)
  - "Nor can reader or writer claim complete immunity from this fearful sin: in how many ways have we been unfaithful to Christ, and to the light and privileges which God has entrusted to us!" (A.W. Pink, 53)
- How has God been faithful?
  - *Numbers 23:19 - God is not man, that he should lie, or a son of man, that he*

*should change his mind. Has he said, and will he not do it? Or has he spoken, and will he not fulfill it?*

- What did God say? Deut. 28 summary: - Obedience brings blessing; Disobedience brings judgment.
- *Psalms 51:4* - David acknowledges that God's judgment against him is just.
- "God's faithfulness is ultimately not to Israel but to his own person and promises." (Douglas Moo, 196)

### **Well, if sin works for God's glory, then...**

*3:5-8 - <sup>5</sup> But if our unrighteousness serves to show the righteousness of God, what shall we say? That God is unrighteous to inflict wrath on us? (I speak in a human way.) <sup>6</sup> By no means! For then how could God judge the world? <sup>7</sup> But if through my lie God's truth abounds to his glory, why am I still being condemned as a sinner? <sup>8</sup> And why not do evil that good may come?—as some people slanderously charge us with saying. Their condemnation is just.*

- God is judge
  - *Gen. 18:25* - *the Judge of all the earth must deal justly.*
- Sin is never justified as an excuse for bringing God glory...THAT'S ABSURD!

### **Application:**

Appreciate the Faithfulness of God!

- God is true. His Word of Promise is sure. In all His relations with His people God is faithful. He may be safely relied upon. No one ever yet really trusted Him in vain. We find this precious truth expressed almost everywhere in the Scriptures, for His people need to know that faithfulness is an essential part of the Divine character. This is the basis of our confidence in Him. But it is one thing to accept the faithfulness of God as a Divine truth, it is quite another to act upon it. God has given us many "exceeding great and precious promises," but are we really counting on His fulfillment of them? Are we actually expecting Him to do for us all that He has said? Are we resting with implicit assurance on these words, "He is faithful that promised" (Heb. 10:23)? (A.W. Pink, 53)

Don't Presume on God's Grace!

- The problem Paul attacks in these verses is not confined to the people of God of his day. All too often we Christians have presumed that God's grace to us exempts us from any concern about our sin. Particularly is this a danger among Christians who share with me the belief that God sovereignly maintains the regenerate in their salvation till the end. Too easily do we forget that God's ultimate concern is for his own glory and not for our blessing; that his righteousness is beautifully displayed when

he judges as well as when he saves. We want to “Stand on the promises” — and this is entirely appropriate. But we must forget that God promises (in the NT as well as in the OT) to rebuke and chastise his people for sin as well as to bless them out of the abundance of his grace. (Douglas Moo, 196-197)