

Session #10: “JEWS AND THE ORACLES OF GOD”— *Romans 3:1-8*

Monday 7:30pm, H 106 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by doughnut/vending machine area),

Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – Phil Twente, cell # 714 425 9221; email - philtwente@att.net

For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: <http://www.missioncalvary.com/> Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column under “Site Map”

Note: Reference has been made in the following notes to commentaries on Romans by Pastor Chuck Smith, David Hocking and William Newell.

Questions:

- If salvation is for the Jews and Gentiles alike, what advantage has the Jew?
- If some do not believe, does their unbelief make the faithfulness of God without effect?
- If our unrighteousness demonstrates the righteousness of God, is God unjust in inflicting His wrath?
- If the truth of God has increased through my lie to His glory, why am I still judged as a sinner?

THE PRINCIPLES OF THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD - Romans 1:18-8:39

Principle #1 - CONDEMNATION - 1:18-3:20

1A. CONDEMNATION OF THOSE WHO **REJECT** THE REVELATION OF GOD - ROMANS 1:18-32

2A. CONDEMNATION OF THOSE WHO **REBUKE** OTHERS WHILE IGNORING THEIR OWN DEEDS - ROMANS 2:1-16

3A. CONDEMNATION OF THOSE WHO **RELY** UPON THEIR OWN STANDARDS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS - ROMANS 2:17-3:8 – Who is a Jew?

1B. Personal CLAIMS are hypocritical when they are not backed up by a godly lifestyle - 2:17-24

2B. Physical CIRCUMCISION is insufficient to make a person righteous before God - 2:25-29

(TODAY’S STUDY) =

3B. Personal CONDUCT does not affect the nature and character of God and His judgment - 3:1-8

Notice 3:1 - “What advantage then...” and 3:9 - “What then?” Jews felt advantaged for three reasons (in the days of our Lord):

1. As a son of Abraham - cf. *John 8:48-59*

2. As one who possessed God’s law-disciples of Moses - cf. *John 9:26-29*

3. As one who was circumcised - *Acts 15:1, 5* - The question deals with the credibility of God - if there is no advantage in being Jewish, and if circumcision has no value, then why did God choose the Jews out of all nations to be His special people, and why did He give them circumcision as the sign of the Abrahamic covenant? - Cf. *Deut. 7:6-9; 26:18-19; Psalms 135:4; Isa. 41:8-10; Zech. 2:8*

Rom 3:1 What advantage then has the Jew, or what is the profit of circumcision?

Rom 3:2 Much in every way (in every respect)! Chiefly because to them were committed the oracles of God.

1C. The great Privilege in being Jewish and circumcised - 3:1-2 cf. *Rom. 9:4*

1D. The immediate response from Paul - “Much in every way” - in every respect - Greek: *tropos* - 13 times

2D. The primary reason - “chiefly” - “oracles (revelation) of God” - Greek: *logia* – used 4 times - *Acts 7:38; Heb. 5:12; 1 Peter 4:11* and here Two things are involved:

1E. The protection of the written Scriptures - *Ex. 25:16, 21; Num. 4:5-6; Deut. 10:5; 31:24-26; 1 Kings 8:21*

2E. The publishing of those Scriptures to the world - cf. *Deut. 4:6-8; Psalm 147:19-20; Isa. 45:18-25*

THE FUTURE - *Gen. 12:3; Isa. 2:2-3; 52:7, 10; 66:18-19; Micah 4:1-2* - The salvation of the Gentiles - argued in the council of Jerusalem in *Acts 15:15-18*, quoting from *Amos 9:11* and *Isaiah 45:22-25; Psalm 18:49* - “Therefore will I give thanks to You, O Lord, among the Gentiles, and sing praises to Your name.” - cf. *Romans 15:8-12*; (also in *2 Sam. 22:50*)

2C. The difficult Problems that are created by this advantage - 3:3-8 (three “if” clauses - vv. 3, 5, 7)

Rom 3:3 For **what if (and it is so)** some did not believe? Will their unbelief make the **faithfulness of God** without effect?

Rom 3:4 Certainly not! Indeed, let God be true but every man a liar. As it is written: **"That You may be justified in Your words, And may overcome when You are judged."**

1D. As to **the FAITHFULNESS of God** - 3-4

Question: How does **the unbelief of some Jews affect the faithfulness of God?** ("what if" - *ei* with indicative - "*if and it is so*") 2 Tim. 2:13

Answer: **It does not affect it one bit! A strong contrast here between God and humanity** - in terms of reliability.

Quote is from **Psalms 51:4** - cf. **Leviticus 26:40-45; Psalms 89:30-37; Jeremiah 31:35-37**

Rom 3:5 **But if (and it is so)** our unrighteousness demonstrates the righteousness of God, what shall we say? Is God unjust who inflicts wrath? (I speak as a man-from a human point of view.)

Rom 3:6 **Certainly not! For then how will God judge the world?**

2D. As to **the RIGHTEOUSNESS of God** - 5-6 **Example of Judas!**

Question: **Is God unrighteous by bringing judgment on those** whose unrighteousness commends His righteousness? - No, it doesn't effect it one bit!

Answer: **Of course not - how then could God judge the world?**

The last part of verse 4 is a quote from **Psalms 51:4** concerning David's sin - was he saying that David's sin was committed in order that God might be recognized as being "just"? Or, is he saying **that the unbelief of some Jews actually reinforces the faithfulness of God or makes it more obvious?** But, if God is not the just Judge of the whole world, then He is not God at all! If He is unjust in any way, how can He judge the world? - cf. **Gen. 18:25; Deut. 32:4; Job 8:3; 34:10, 12** -

God will do what is right, no matter what!! God's righteousness is not effected by my conduct!

Rom 3:7 **For if (and it is so)** the truth of God has increased through my lie to His glory, why am I also still judged as a sinner?

Rom 3:8 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.**

3D. As to **the JUSTICE of God** - 7-8 **Twisting the glorious free gift of God in Jesus into a supposed license to sin in the peak of man's depravity! It takes the most beautiful gift of God and perverts it!**

Question: How can God judge me as a sinner if my sin brings Him glory? The reasoning here goes something like this: What **advantage is it to have the oracles of God entrusted to you,** and **your unfaithfulness to those oracles brings glory to God's faithful-ness,** and **then God judges you as a sinner?** **In giving your testimony have you ever exalted your wickedness?**

Answer: Those **who would argue such a point prove they deserve the judgment of God! God's character needs nothing from us, least of all our sin** to make them stand out in contrast. **God rightly judges the sinner, and especially those to whom His Word was given.**

SO, WHAT ADVANTAGE IS IT TO BE ENTRUSTED WITH THE ORACLES OF GOD?

(1) **If your obedience or disobedience to what it says does not affect what God has promised in it?** -

3-4 Answer - **Because you learn who He is through it!**

(2) **If God will judge you even though your unrighteousness demonstrates His righteousness?** - 5-6

Answer - **Let God be true and every man a liar! He is the one stable constant! He changes not!**

(3) **If God regards you as a sinner even though your sin brings Him glory?** - 7-8 - **Not all questions deserve an answer!** They **need to be condemned at the point** that **they insinuate something is wrong with the character of God.** Who are we to question the God Who made us?

SO, WHAT IS THE ADVANTAGE? - The **great advantage of having the law of God is that it brings the knowledge of sin and shows us our need of a Savior!** cf. **Galatians 3:24 "Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith."** -- Oh, yes!! All of us desperately need a Savior! **Thank You! Thank You!!**