

# ROMANS: One Verse at a Time

## Romans 3:1-20

### *God's Judgment Defended*

**3** What advantage then has the Jew, or what *is* the profit of circumcision? <sup>2</sup> Much in every way! Chiefly because to them were committed the oracles of God. <sup>3</sup> For what if some did not believe? Will their unbelief make the faithfulness of God without effect? <sup>4</sup> 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."*

<sup>5</sup> But if our unrighteousness demonstrates the righteousness of God, what shall we say? *Is* God unjust who inflicts wrath? (I speak as a man.) <sup>6</sup> Certainly not! For then how will God judge the world?

<sup>7</sup> For if the truth of God has increased through my lie to His glory, why am I also still judged as a sinner? <sup>8</sup> 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.

What **advantage** then has the Jew,  
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what *is* the **profit** of circumcision?

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In the first one-eighth of his letter to the Romans Paul had made clear the just condemnation of a Holy God against sinful man — \_\_\_\_\_ men everywhere, Gentiles and \_\_\_\_\_. Paul had pointedly told his Jewish brothers and sisters that they were not \_\_\_\_\_ from God's just wrath by their \_\_\_\_\_ (the fact that they were Jews) nor because they were the recipients of God's \_\_\_\_\_. They were not saved by the mark of \_\_\_\_\_ in their flesh because of the lack of an \_\_\_\_\_ faith in their hearts.

Therefore, a reasonable question to ask of the apostle was, "What **advantage** then has the **Jew**?" Another way to ask the same question was "what *is* the **profit** of circumcision?" Many are still asking those questions, especially in light of the history of the Jews which is one filled with both the \_\_\_\_\_ of sin and the tragedy of its \_\_\_\_\_.

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It is no exaggeration to say that the Jews are the most persecuted and oppressed people in history. Consider the following summary:

- 1542 B.C. Hard bondage in \_\_\_\_\_
- 1460 Israel refuses to enter Promised Land; \_\_\_\_\_ wandering begins.
- 1372 Tribes of Israel fall into periods of \_\_\_\_\_; in turn the Lord delivers them into the hands of their enemies off and on for 345 yrs.
- 945 Kingdom of Israel \_\_\_\_\_; civil war
- 721 The Northern Kingdom (Israel) is laid waste by \_\_\_\_\_; many survivors taken captive and scattered among the nations.
- 586 \_\_\_\_\_ destroys Jerusalem and the temple; many citizens carried as captives to Babylon.
- 516 The \_\_\_\_\_ returns to rebuild Jerusalem and the temple; encounter opposition from Samaritans.
- 335 \_\_\_\_\_ rule begins over Palestine; Jews are caught in the middle of wars between the Ptolemys of Egypt and the Seleucids of Syria.
- 168 Antiochus Epiphanes slays 40,000 Jews in \_\_\_ days and sells an equal number into slavery.
- 72 \_\_\_\_\_ rule over the Jews begins. Tens of thousands of Jewish “rebels” were crucified.
- 4 B.C. \_\_\_\_\_ slaughters the babies of Bethlehem.
- 29 A.D. The Jews \_\_\_\_\_ their Messiah King.
- \_\_\_\_\_ A.D. Roman General Titus destroys Jerusalem and the temple. One million Jews slaughtered. Over 100,000 Jews sold into slavery.
- 115 Jews in various places in the Roman Empire rebel. Emperor Hadrian levels \_\_\_\_\_ Jewish towns in Palestine and kills more than 600,000 Jewish men.
- 380 Emperor Theodosius I declares Jews to be an \_\_\_\_\_ race, a philosophy that dominated Europe for over 1,000 years.
- 628 Emperor Heroclitus tries to exterminate the Jews from the \_\_\_\_\_ half of the Roman Empire.
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|-----------------|---|
| 1096            | The first _____ resulted in the death of thousands of Jews as the Crusaders marched toward Palestine to attempt to take it from the Turks.        |
| 1254            | King Louis IX banished Jews from _____.   |
| 1492            | _____ expels all Jews from the nation.  |
| 1500's          | Portugal and other western European nations also closed their borders to Jews. Jews were forced to resettle in northern Italy, _____, and Poland. |
| 1818            | Jews massacred by the thousands in the _____.   |
| 1940's          | Six _____ Jews were killed in the Nazi holocaust.   |
| 1948            | Israel _____ in a day.  |
| 1948            | Israel _____ by neighboring countries.  |
| 1948 to present | Various wars with neighboring nations and continuing battles with _____.  |

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What **advantage** then has the Jew?

<sup>2</sup> Much in every way!  
 Chiefly **because**  
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Although the Jews in the church at Rome did not know all of this history, the part up through their own day, coupled with Paul telling them there was no salvation security in their heritage or as custodians of the law or in their outward sign of circumcision, was more than enough to make them ask the question.

Paul's answer probably surprised them. **Much in every way!** Then he tells them that their chief advantage was that they were given the **oracles**, the supernatural \_\_\_\_\_ of God. These messages included the law which revealed God's \_\_\_\_\_ and, as Paul ultimately explains, were a tutor to bring them to Christ. These words contained the \_\_\_\_\_ that God made with the Jews, both

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conditional and unconditional. Most of all, the messages God sent to the Jews told them not only that a Messiah-Savior was coming, but how they could \_\_\_\_\_ Him when He arrived. He would be from the tribe of \_\_\_\_\_, a descendant of David. He would be born in Bethlehem, and a \_\_\_\_\_ would be the sign of His coming into the world. He also would come from both \_\_\_\_\_ and Nazareth. His ministry would be one of power and miracles, and He would “set the \_\_\_\_\_ free.” The date He would present Himself to Jerusalem as her coming King was discernable by the message sent through \_\_\_\_\_ the prophet. God even told them that most Jews would \_\_\_\_\_ and reject Him, and that He would be slain for their sins like a \_\_\_\_\_ is slaughtered. The psalmist foretold His death on the \_\_\_\_\_.

**What advantage then has the Jew?** The Jew had the \_\_\_\_\_ and greatest opportunity to know the Savior and to come to Him in faith for forgiveness and eternal life, if they had just paid attention to the \_\_\_\_\_. God sent them in His Word. But by and large, they did not!

The next two passages (3-4) and (5-8) are difficult to understand if you do not see what Paul is doing. Paul is stating objections to his arguments which he anticipates the Jews in the Church at Rome are thinking in response to what He has said thus far. Paul’s reasoning is not empty speculation. He has heard these things from Jews everywhere he has ministered. Here he states their objection and then answers it.

**Objection 1:** *OK, so some Jews **didn’t believe**. But God is still **faithful**, so He will keep His promises to the Jews. Therefore, because of God’s promises, every Jew is \_\_\_\_\_ from the wrath of God.*

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<sup>3</sup> For **what if** some did not believe?  
Will their unbelief make  
the faithfulness of God  
without effect?

<sup>4</sup> Certainly not!

Indeed, let God be true  
but every man a liar.

As it is **written**:  
“That You may be  
justified in Your words,  
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<sup>5</sup> But if **our unrighteousness**  
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Certainly not!  
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<sup>7</sup> For if the **truth**  
of God has increased  
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why am I also still **judged**  
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<sup>8</sup> And **why not say**,  
“Let us do evil that good  
may come”? —as we  
are slanderously  
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affirm that we say.  
Their condemnation is just.

Paul says, “**Certainly not!**” These words in the Greek are the \_\_\_\_\_ negative it was possible to express. We might say, “No way!” or “It is not possible!” Man’s unbelief and other sin does not taint or \_\_\_\_\_ God’s faithfulness. He says, even if **every man is a liar**, God still always tells the truth. Paul then quotes King David in his psalm of \_\_\_\_\_ (Psalm 51) saying that God’s Word is the \_\_\_\_\_ for truth, and that God will always be found to be \_\_\_\_\_ and perfect when His words or actions are evaluated rightly.

**Objection 2:** *Paul, you are saying that God demonstrates His own righteousness through the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Jews. You are saying that God uses our sin to His own \_\_\_\_\_. This makes God \_\_\_\_\_ in punishing the sinner because the sin has been “good” for God.*

Paul adds (**I speak as a \_\_\_\_\_**) to be sure the reader does not think this blasphemous reasoning comes from him.

Again Paul says, “**Certainly not!**” Otherwise, God could not be the eternal \_\_\_\_\_. And both Paul and the other Jews knew that repeatedly the Old Testament declared that God is the judge of the world.

**Objection 2 restated:** *If my telling a \_\_\_\_\_ increases the glory God gets by telling the truth, why am I condemned since my lie worked to God’s “good?” Why not just do more and more \_\_\_\_\_ to work for God’s good more and more.*

Paul says, “We are actually accused of saying such slanderous words.” That is not \_\_\_\_\_ at all. The people who say such false things about us are justly \_\_\_\_\_.

<sup>9</sup> What then? Are we better *than they*? Not at all. For we have previously charged both Jews and Greeks that they are all under sin.

<sup>10</sup> As it is written:

*“There is none righteous, no, not one;*

*<sup>11</sup> There is none who understands;*

*There is none who seeks after God.*

*<sup>12</sup> They have all turned aside;*

*They have together become unprofitable;*

*There is none who does good, no, not one.”*

*<sup>13</sup> “Their throat is an open tomb;*

*With their tongues they have practiced deceit”;*

*“The poison of asps is under their lips”;*

*<sup>14</sup> “Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness.”*

*<sup>15</sup> “Their feet are swift to shed blood;*

*<sup>16</sup> Destruction and misery are in their ways;*

*<sup>17</sup> And the way of peace they have not known.”*

*<sup>18</sup> “There is no fear of God before their eyes.”*

<sup>19</sup> Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. <sup>20</sup> Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law *is* the knowledge of sin.

<sup>9</sup> What then?

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Paul begins by putting everyone on an \_\_\_\_\_ playing field. Talk about fairness!

After Paul, in the first eight verses of the chapter, underscores the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Jew, he personalizes the argument by asking, “What about the \_\_\_\_\_ of us? Are we, the New Testament Church, any better than they are?” Emphatically, Paul says, “\_\_\_\_\_!” Paul has already shown us that \_\_\_\_\_ are under sin.

This concept is important because many people, especially those who are \_\_\_\_\_, often think that they are better than others. After all, God \_\_\_\_\_ them. But the one who understands the full teaching of the Word of God quickly realizes that it is not their merit that has somehow earned favor with God, but the merit of Jesus Christ who gave Himself as payment for our sins.

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<sup>11</sup> *There is*

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Paul then launches into a \_\_\_\_\_ argument which rightly condemns all of \_\_\_\_\_. He begins with the simple pronouncement that there is no one who is in right standing before God. (He is speaking of all people \_\_\_\_\_ they come to faith in Jesus Christ.) Righteousness is a major theme in Romans, being used, in its various forms, more than \_\_\_\_\_ times. As such, this is the first charge. No one stands **righteous** before a holy God in and of \_\_\_\_\_. He underscores this by reiterating just how many people are in right standing before God. Is it 1 Million? 1 Thousand? 1 Hundred? Ten? One? No...the answer is \_\_\_\_\_.

Paul’s argument continues by simply stating that humanity is spiritually \_\_\_\_\_. Now, God is not calling us stupid as much as He is putting us in our place. How can \_\_\_\_\_ man discern spiritual things?

1 Corinthians 2:14 (NKJV) 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.

Independent of God, we simply do not \_\_\_\_\_ spiritual matters and, in fact, consider such thoughts \_\_\_\_\_. He underscores this by reiterating just how many lost people **understand**. Is it 1 Million? 1 Thousand? 1 Hundred? Ten? One? No...the answer is \_\_\_\_\_.

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*There is*

*none*

*who seeks after God.*

<sup>12</sup> *They have all  
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*They have  
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Having just seen that lost mankind believes spiritual matters are foolish, is it any wonder they do not \_\_\_\_\_ **after God**? One might wonder, with the multitude of religions throughout the world that surely all of mankind is seeking after God, but Paul says this is not so. In fact, there is only One God, not \_\_\_\_\_. One way, not many. Every other religion takes people \_\_\_\_\_ from God, not towards Him. Far too many people are satisfied with this type of surface searching for the truth while, at the same time, hiding from the real \_\_\_\_\_. This is nothing new. \_\_\_\_\_ did not seek God after he sinned. He made his own covering and hid. God went looking for Him, and he does the same for us. Without some sort of divine \_\_\_\_\_, people do not truly seek God on their own. Paul underscores this by reiterating just how many lost people seek God. Is it 1 Million? 1 Thousand? 1 Hundred? Ten? One? No...the answer is \_\_\_\_\_.

The FOURTH charge Paul puts forth is that **all have turned aside**. Simply put, humanity simply goes the \_\_\_\_\_ way of God. We will put almost anything in His place to include \_\_\_\_\_, family, \_\_\_\_\_ and jobs. He underscores this by reiterating just how many people have turned aside and **become unprofitable**. Is it One? Ten? 1 thousand? 1 million? No...the answer is ALL. As such, Paul then charges that mankind is USELESS or unprofitable. What do we do with things that have no value? We throw them away. Aren't you glad that God did not just throw us away? Glory be to God.

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Paul does not stop there, he continues with a sixth charge...no one **does** \_\_\_\_\_. This argument presents a problem to the \_\_\_\_\_ person who believes they do good things. But, compared to the \_\_\_\_\_ standard of God’s righteousness, there is none who can come close. Again Paul underscores this by reiterating just how many are not even good. Is it 1 Million? 1 Thousand? Ten? One? No...the answer is \_\_\_\_\_.

After reading verses like these, is it any wonder James encourages us to be slow to \_\_\_\_\_ (James 1:19)? Folks, what we say matters. Paul breaks it down and addresses our **throat, tongue, lips, and mouth** to provide further justification to his previous argument that none are \_\_\_\_\_. Not only are none good...we do not have any good \_\_\_\_\_!

These metaphors are clear. What is in a grave? A \_\_\_\_\_ body. You know, we seal caskets and bury bodies for a reason. Without upsetting your sensibilities, I would encourage you to take some time to simply reflect on how powerful a statement this really is.

Paul continues with our tongue. With it we \_\_\_\_\_ deceit. And we are pretty good at it. We do not need to be reminded how we will misuse \_\_\_\_\_ or flat out lie. Many have gotten so good at it that they believe their \_\_\_\_\_ lies and flatter themselves in thinking they are better than they are.

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- 15 *“Their feet  
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Proverbs 20:11 says that even a \_\_\_\_\_ is known by his actions. Here, Paul reveals the actions of man result in shed \_\_\_\_\_, destruction, and misery. Sadly, it is the history of man, both in wartime and in times of peace, that we kill each other. Cain and Able have nothing on us today.

Even if man does not go all the way to kill, we can surely leave a wide path of \_\_\_\_\_ and misery in our wake. Today, we are sensitive to the abuse children receive; we hear of rape, bullying, theft, harassment...the list of **destructions and miseries** we inflict on each other goes on and on.

Is there no peace? Paul says “\_\_\_\_\_!” We simply are not inclined to be peaceful people. Why? Because there is no \_\_\_\_\_ of God. A Christian fears God with an \_\_\_\_\_-inspiring type of fear which leads to righteousness and wisdom. The godless should be filled with fear which leads to \_\_\_\_\_, dread, and trembling. They should shudder at the thought of being found wanting without Christ. But they do not. They go their own way and \_\_\_\_\_ others they believe there is a God while, at the same time, living as if He does not \_\_\_\_\_. Donald Barnhouse provided two examples of just how mean people can be by saying that without this Godly fear, lost men can \_\_\_\_\_ a deaf man and put a stone in the \_\_\_\_\_ of a blind man.

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 that every mouth  
         may be stopped,  
  
 and  
  
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<sup>20</sup> Therefore  
     by the deeds of the law  
     no flesh will be justified in His  
     sight,  
  
 for  
     by the law  
     is  
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     of sin.

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After numerous indictments against fallen humanity, Paul relays God's \_\_\_\_\_. With absolute certainty, we know everyone is under the law of God and is \_\_\_\_\_ to Him. How much **flesh** is **justified** in His sight? A pound? No. \_\_\_\_\_. How many people in the world are **guilty before God**? Ten million? 1 Million? 1 Thousand? Ten? No. \_\_\_\_\_ is guilty before God. There is none justified in His sight. The law is clear. Man is sinful and in desperate need of a \_\_\_\_\_. We can be thankful that God has a plan of salvation, and that while we were dead in our sins, He willingly gave His only Son, Jesus, to pay for our sins by dying on the \_\_\_\_\_. I hope you have accepted His gift and turned your life over to Him.

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