

Romans 3

v. 1-2 - This verse continues the thought of Romans 2:28-29

- The question is “if a Jew is only a real Jew if he is one inwardly, then what is the purpose of circumcision?” **Answer:** There is no advantage to the Jew from having the Law if they didn’t obey it! (except God gave the scriptures to the Jews in v.2)
- Since God gave the Jews the scriptures (and therefore Truth and Light), then they had an advantage over the Gentiles who only had nature (that has been cursed due to sin) and conscience (which can be seared). The scriptures give a people an advantage!
- Why are they asking? The Jews are trying here to resist and dismiss Paul’s argument that BOTH Jews and Gentiles are viewed exactly the same by God.

v. 3 - Just because unbelievers exist, this does not make God’s revelation of faith alone in Jesus Christ without effect. Truth is still true whether you believe it or not.

- Faith is not effective just because it is sincere. Example: Gravity, fire, etc.
- Jesus Christ is the Saviour and Messiah no matter if many do not believe it.

v. 4 - GOD FORBID! (“thou” refers to God)

- We must let God be TRUTH, and EVERY man a liar! (See Topical Study)
- When anything a man says contradicts God’s words, we must reject the false words and the person saying them.
- 4b-The Jews argue that they want to be able to overcome any judgment of God by accusing God in an attempt to justify themselves.

v. 5 - God’s righteousness is shown in the perspective of man’s sin.

- Calvinism argument: Don’t fault me for being the sinner, I’m just providing the **most** sin so God can show his goodness, grace, forgiveness in order to bring Him the **most** glory - HOW ABSURD!
- The Jews’ argument is that since I am not responsible for my sins, then God has no right to judge or fault me for any of my sins.
- The Jews could not handle the fact that the Gospel of Jesus Christ allowed for the forgiveness of EVERYBODY’S sin, even those heathen Gentile dogs!
- God IS NOT saying that we should sin as much as possible so that we can bring him the most glory!
- We bring glory to God by our obedience, not our disobedience! Ex: A Christian who lives out a clean and changed life can have a better testimony and be a much more effective servant of God.
- The idea is NOT that we need to sin in order to prove God’s goodness and forgiveness. - Cf. vv. 4-5 with Romans 6:1-2; Jer. 7:8-10

• v. 5b-6 GOD FORBID!

- God CAN NEVER be unrighteous, so then God cannot be unrighteous for taking vengeance in punishing the lost for their sins. While God allows testing, God NEVER TEMPTS any man to sin. - James 1:13-15

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- **If God** is ultimately responsible for the unrighteousness of man and all his sins, then certainly God is not worthy to rightly judge the world.
- v. 7-8 - These verses are saying “Why judge me a sinner if through my lying and wickedness I am bringing more glory to God?”
- If evil brings about goodness from God, why shouldn't we maximize our sinning?
 - Salvation is no license to sin. - Gal. 5:1,13
 - God's judgment & damnation of the lost will be just. - John 5:22; Rom. 2:2; Gen. 18:25
- v. 9 - All the facts are in and the verdict is clear => **GUILTY AS CHARGED!**
- “We”=>Jews “They”=>Gentiles
 - The question is: “Are the Jews better than the Gentiles?”
 - OR “Are any of us Jews any better than those heretics who twist the grace of God by preaching that the more we sin, the more God is glorified? **NO WAY!** cf. Romans 5:20-6:2
 - Question → Are we as believers guilty of tolerating our own sins because we know all our sins have been paid for at the cross? (JSoC) Rom. 14:10; 2 Cor. 5:10
- v. 10-12 - Conclusion - No righteousness/goodness in the entire human race, no exceptions!
- All are under sin: Chapter 1 →Gentiles Chapter 2 →Jews
 - Psalm 14:1-3 (same as Ps. 53:1-3); 39:5 “vanity”=>empty, void; useless, worth nothing); Eccl. 7:20; Romans 3:23; Isaiah 64:6
 - Our sin is rooted in our **selfish motivation**, even a pursuit of religion can be just a selfish drive to seek satisfaction or fill a void. Every person has a great gap between him and God that only Jesus Christ can fill. - 1 Tim. 2:5-6
- v.11 - Lack of understanding is NOT a lack of information or truth, it is the rejection or failure to act upon the truth God has shown to every man. (Rom.1:18-20) Willful Blindness! Phil. 2:21
- An old time bishop named Berkeley said this: “When I pray, I sin. When I preach, I sin. My very *repentance* needs to be repented of, and my tears need washing in the blood of Christ.” - 2 Cor. 12:5-11
 - We all are guilty of thinking of ourselves more highly than we ought to think! - Prov. 3:7, 27:2; Rom. 12:3
 - Being in control of the Holy Ghost will show us 1) what great sinners we really are and 2) how undeserving of salvation we really are!
 - Lost people and many believers are looking for a kind of God who will approve our own sinful lifestyle and bad habits.
 - It's the Lord who seeks after man. - Luke 19:10

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v.12 - Despite man's best efforts, he can **never** produce anything good in God's eyes. - Eccl. 7:20; Isaiah 53:6, 64:6; Psalm 39:4-5

vv. 13-18 - Description of the wicked (and antichrist) and lost world. Also how sin affects the different parts of the body (and this local church body) - Prov. 6:16-19; Jer. 17:9; Acts 28:27; Isaiah 59:6-7; Acts 2:23

v. 13 - Our throat is a graveyard for dead things: pigs, cows, fish, etc. - Ps. 5:9; 140:3

- Sins of the tongue are mentioned more times in the Bible than any other sin except for idolatry. - James 3:5-10; Prov. 10:19; Eccl. 5:3
- The tongue and lips are used to spew out deceit and poison, e.g. gossip, slander, lies, backbiting, flattery, criticisms, bribery, conspiracy to do evil, exaggeration, destruction of other people's character, disobedience, unfaithfulness, attempts to make ourselves look good and put other people down, expressions of pride, boasting, hypocrisy, excuses, bitterness, hatred, haughtiness, and to reveal a heart that is darkened, dead, and lost in sin. - John 3:19-20

v. 14 - Cursing - Psalm 10:1-7

- Exodus 20:7; Lev. 24:11-16 - Same punishment as for murder (Lev. 24:17)
- Why is God so serious about it? Cursing is assigning or asking God to damn or curse something or somebody He created. Cursing demonstrates ignorance, a hot-temper, harshness, dishonesty, plotting deception, and a lack of fear of God.
- What cursing people say reveals their wicked heart. - Prov. 10:32; Matt. 12:34
- Bitterness - spirit of guile or malice; trying to severely hurt others - James 3:14

v. 15 - Feet are badly affected by sin. - Prov. 6:13, 18; Isaiah 59:7

- The Lord hates those individuals and nations who pursue sin and evil and will pour out His righteous judgment. - Ps. 7:11, 9:17; Matt. 21:44
- Any sin or evil would include abortion, merchandising of body parts, etc.

v. 16 - Wherever there is wickedness, destruction and misery follow.

- Prov. 13:15; 29:2; Psalm 9:17; 50:22; Gal. 6:7
- The ways of the world and the lost are not right. - Prov. 14:12
- Sin is bondage. - Gal. 4:3,9, 5:1
- Obedience to God is genuine freedom and true liberty. - John 8:32-36; Rom. 8:21; 2 Cor. 3:17; Gal. 5:1,13

v. 17 - The wicked have no peace. - Isaiah 59:8; 48:22; 57:21

- Only the Lord Jesus Christ can give perfect peace - Rom. 5:1; Phil. 4:7; Isaiah 26:3

v. 18 - No fear of God is the root problem and the worst condemnation in this whole passage.

- To forsake the **fear of God** is to forsake all wisdom and understanding - Ps. 36:1-4

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- Job 28:28; Psalm 111:10; Prov. 1:7; 24-33; 9:10; 10:27; 16:6; 19:23; 22:4; Isa.33:6; Acts 9:31; Heb. 12:28-29; Acts 5:11
 - Not fearing God is to make yourself your own God. - Example: Ezek. 28:1-19
- v. 19 - Purpose of the OT Law - Shows (proves) all men are guilty before God.
- The Law was speaking to the Jews, and the Law caused them to stop bragging (2:17) about their own perceived self-righteousness, and misuse of the Law to condemn the Gentiles.
 - The Law-breaking Jews stand guilty and without excuse before God.
 - The Gentiles as well (“all the world”) are **guilty** before God.
 - Jews are guilty of failing to keep the Law (and their conscience), and we Gentiles are guilty of failing to keep the light God has written on our conscience.
 - The Law will then lead all of us know, understand, and recognize we need a Saviour. - Gal. 3:24-26
 - We must **A**gree with God that we are sinners, then **B**elieve by faith, and **C**all (trust) on Jesus.
- v. 20 - Purpose of the OT Law - To show (prove) all men are under condemnation as sinners.
- The Law was not given to save anybody, but to give us the knowledge of our sinfulness and hopeless condition before God. The Law reveals but CANNOT heal!
 - Broken Laws demand justice, condemnation, and punishment. - John 3:18, Heb. 9:27; Rev. 20:15
 - The Law brings about a curse on mankind, but Jesus redeems us from that curse - Gal. 3:13-14; Eph. 2:11-13; Romans 3:21-22 (more later)
 - The Law shows us where we stand with God - Rom. 7:7-14; Eph. 2:1
 - We must be justified “*in his* (God’s) *sight*”, not in the sight of our fellow man!
 - No man can be justified by the deeds of the Law (works), but believing by faith - Rom. 3:28; 5:1; Acts 13:37-39; Gal. 3:26 (not futile attempts to turn from sin or your best efforts to give up all your sin!)
- v. 21 - The core of the Gospel, i.e. “the righteousness of God,” is **Jesus Christ Himself** - 1 Cor. 1:30
- The righteousness of God is “*manifested*” in Jesus Christ - Romans 8:2-4
 - This term is NOT our feeble attempts to attain a higher level of righteousness that God will finally accept.
 - Nor is it a new righteousness we attain with God’s assistance.
 - It is a term that can only be used to describe “the righteousness of God” and nobody else.
 - Jesus Christ fulfilled the requirements of God’s Law. It is God’s righteousness that is required in order to be saved and go to heaven. - Rom. 10:3-4

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- God's righteousness is IMPUTED (ascribed, attributed, regarded, reckoned, accounted, recognized as). - Ps. 32:2; Rom. 4:6-8
 - God made Jesus to be sin when He was actually sinless. - 2 Cor. 5:21
 - Upon believing in Jesus Christ by faith, God made us perfectly righteous in God's sight when we possessed no righteousness of our own. SIMILAR TO us making a 0 on a test in school and the teacher entering a score of 100 in the grade book. - Imputation of God's righteousness prophesied: Isaiah 54:17; 61:10; Jer. 23:5-6; Micah 6:4-5; 7:8-9
- v. 22 - The righteousness of God is by faith of Jesus Christ. - Rom. 10:3-4
- Faith of Christ means faith in Jesus Christ as the complete and entire plan of salvation. - Eph. 2:8-9; Rom. 5:1; Acts 16:30-31
 - It is in contrast to any attempt for salvation by works of the law. - Rom. 4:5; Gal. 3:21-23
 - We must not rely on any self-righteousness - Phil. 3:9
 - The righteousness of God is available as a free gift to "*unto all and upon all them that believe*" - Rom. 5:18-19; Rom. 10:13 contrasted with Prov. 28:18; James 2:19
 - God's only requirement is "*believe*" (this means changing your mind/heart from unbelief or wrong belief and trusting/calling upon Jesus Christ by faith alone)
 - "*There is no difference*" - Acts 15:7-11
- v. 23 - A MUST MEMORY VERSE! Pronouncement of hopelessness!-Isa. 53:6, 64:6; Job 22:5; 1 Kings 8:46; 2 Chron. 6:36; Eccl. 7:20; Ps. 39:4-5, 62:9
- That all are sinners has been proven over and over in both the OT & NT, therefore all need the same cure...Jesus Christ!
 - "come short of" shows us that man's best efforts fall short of and trespass against God's glory and His standards of holiness, righteousness, and purity. - Heb. 4:1-2; Rom. 1:21, 5:12; James 2:10
 - The entire human race has been rejected by God and can only be reconciled by God Himself. - Acts 4:10-12, 13:38-39
 - There are only 2 kinds of people: lost sinners and saved sinners (saints).
- v. 24 - We are FREELY justified by grace thru faith in Jesus Christ - Rom. 11:5-6; Gal. 2:21
- Freely - means without any cost to you at all, by God's grace-Rom. 5:15-18; Rev. 21:6; 22:17
 - **FREE GIFT!** - Eph. 2:7-9; Rom. 6:23 (Doctrine **too complicated** for most people!)
 - The first time God is quoted by a human being, the word "freely" was omitted from what he said. Ever since that time, the free gift of salvation has been messed up by Satan and his minions and accomplices - Compare Gen. 2:16 with Gen. 3:2
 - Jesus bought and paid for our redemption through his shed blood and death on the cross.
 - God paid the required price to Himself through Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

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- OT type of grace: 2 Samuel 9 - (David → God the Father, Ziba → Saul's servant, Jonathan → Jesus, Mephibosheth → the lame, helpless, hopeless sinner who received undeserved kindness, grace, and blessing for another's sake.)
- v. 25 - Jesus Christ's righteousness declared
- Propitiation - Payment that pleased/satisfied God. - Isa. 53:10-11; 1 John 2:2, 4:10
 - Rather than the sinner trying unsuccessfully to pay the sin debt for himself, God pays the debt owed through the sacrifice of Himself (Jesus Christ).- Heb. 9:26
 - The propitiation is through faith in the blood of Jesus Christ - Col. 1:14, rather than faith in the blood of animals. (Heb. 10:1-4) THE distinguishing factor between the saved and lost!
 - The righteousness of God is declared for the "remission of sins that are past", meaning the sins of those who were dead and in Abraham's bosom (between Genesis 3 and Romans 3), not the past sins of believers.
 - These past sins were remitted "through the forbearance of God". In the OT, God restrained his righteous judgment on sinners and forgave their sins when they did what He asked them to do in offering animal sacrifices UNTIL such time the ONE PERFECT SACRIFICE IN JESUS CHRIST was applied to actually REMOVE (purge) the sin completely and finally. No OT sin, although forgiven, was ever taken away (fully cleansed or completely purged) until Jesus Christ paid for them at the cross. - Heb. 10:4; Heb. 9:15
 - cf. "for the remission of sins" - (in Bible 5 times) Matt. 26:28; Mark 1:4; Luke 3:3; Acts 2:38; Romans 3:25 - In Acts 2:38, Cambellites take out of context "repent and be baptized" means "*in order to get (today)*" forgiveness of sins...damnable works salvation. In Acts 2:38, four separate things are taking place: 1) repentance, 2) baptism to give testimony of their genuine repentance, 3) the sins had been forgiven when they repented, and 4) after this they would receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. (Doctrinal context: Jews, not Gentiles in the Church Age!)
 - The phrase "remission of sins" is connected in the scriptures to the Gospel of the Kingdom. - Luke 1:67-77, 24:46-47; Acts 10:43-48; Heb. 9:22, 10:16-23
- v. 26 - Jesus Christ's righteousness declared for NT saints ("at this time" => NT Church Age dispensation)
- The question is how can God justly declare man perfectly righteous (when he is not) and still retain His own perfect and holy justice. ONLY ONE WAY => through Jesus Christ.
 - God did this by sending Jesus to the earth to live a sinless life, to become our perfectly sinless blood sacrifice on the cross to pay our sin debt, then resurrecting him from the dead.
 - Effective for: "him which believeth in Jesus". When we believe in Jesus by faith, we are granted Jesus' perfect righteousness and become a child of God. (IMPUTATION)
 - Jesus Christ has met EVERY DEMAND of God's Law on our behalf. - Matt. 5:17

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v. 27 - There is no room to boast of any self-righteousness or worthiness of salvation. - Eph. 2:8-9; 1 Cor. 4:7; Rom. 4:5, 10:3-4

- True believers can only boast in the worthiness of the Lord Jesus Christ. - Rev. 5:9-13; 1 Cor.1:29-31
- The phrase “by the law of faith” excludes any boasting, bragging, or selfish pride...we depend 100% on Jesus for our salvation. - John 1:12
- The deeds of the Law can only be fulfilled by Jesus Christ. - Romans 3:31

v. 28 - CONCLUSION of the argument → Man is justified today by faith alone without deeds of the Law! - Gal. 2:16; 3:11, 26

- We must have Christ’s righteousness to do what we cannot do ourselves. Acts 13:37-39; 2 Cor. 5:21
- We cannot depend at all on any good works to gain favor with God. - Romans 4:5

v. 29 - The perfect atonement of Jesus Christ is for the whole world.-1 John 2:2; Gal.3:23-29; 1 Tim. 2:4-6; 2 Pet. 3:9

v. 30 - Faith alone is the sole “method,” “means,” or “medium” through which (or by which) we can be saved.

- Applies to “circumcision” (Jews-BY) and to “uncircumcision” (Gentiles-THROUGH) equally.
- “by faith” (Jews who thought they were in the faith of Abraham) expresses the **means** and “through faith” (Gentiles who had no faith at all) expresses the **channel** or **method** of salvation.

v. 31 - Does the righteousness that comes through faith make the Law void? NO, God forbid!

- Just the opposite, the Law is ESTABLISHED. - Matt. 5:17-18
- The Law serves to convict sinners and show how hopeless and helpless we are and show him the only possible solution is faith in Jesus Christ. - Romans 11:6
- It’s NOT faith OR the Law...it is faith in Jesus who perfectly fulfilled and completed the requirements of the Law on our behalf.

WORDS THAT DEFINE CHURCH AGE SALVATION

- **JUSTIFIED / JUSTIFICATION** - To be officially declared blameless, guiltless, and innocent by God; to be relieved and freed from all guilt of sin. It means that by believing (i.e. by fully trusting by faith) in Jesus Christ’s finished work at the cross and His resurrection (D/B/R), we have been found to be completely righteous AND in full conformity to God’s Law (when we, in fact, are **not** righteous and have **failed to meet** the requirements of the Law). To be justified is to have been given a perfect “positional righteousness” in our legal/judicial standing before God. - Acts 13:39; Romans 3:24; 5:1; 5:9; Gal. 2:16-17

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- **REDEMPTION** - The payment made by Jesus Christ Himself to buy sinners back into right relationship with God. - Col. 1:14; Eph. 1:7, 14; Heb. 9:12, 15
- **PROPITIATION** - This is God sending His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, as the “once for all” blood sacrifice to make the full and complete payment (atonement) for all of mankind’s sin. It is the payment made **by** Jesus Christ (the Son of God) **to** God Himself. Additionally, it is God’s full approval and complete acceptance of the payment made by Jesus Christ at the cross, which **fully satisfied** God’s righteous demand for just payment for all sin. - Rom. 3:25; 1 Tim. 2:5-6; 1 John 2:2; 1 John 4:10
- **REMISSION** - (v. 25) The **result** of the blood payment of Jesus Christ at the cross whereby believers receive God’s mercy and are forgiven, delivered, pardoned, and **completely released** from the just and deserved penalty of sin (eternal Hell) that all sinners owe. - Acts 10:43; Heb. 9:22; 10:16-18
- **PURGE** - The act of cleansing, by the complete **taking away** of sin. This goes beyond sin being merely forgiven; it is where sin is **completely removed** as far as the east is from the west based on what Jesus Christ did for us at the cross. - Micah 7:18-19; Psalm 51:7, 65:3, 103:10-12; Isa. 6:7, 27:9; Heb. 1:1-3, 9:22
- **IMPUTATION** - The act of God where He imputes (ascribes, attributes, regards, reckons, accounts, recognizes, or puts) mankind’s sins on Jesus Christ and where God imputes the righteousness of Jesus Christ to each believer. - Rom. 4:6-8, 21-25, 10:3-4; Ps. 32:2; Isa. 61:10; Zech. 3:1-4; Philemon 1:17-18; 2 Cor. 5:21
- **REGENERATION** - The act of salvation where the Holy Spirit enters the sinner and gives him new life by a new spiritual birth; it is to be “born again” or “saved” or “converted”. Within the inner man, a new spirit is quickened (made alive), which is able to respond to the Holy Spirit. - 1 Cor. 12:13; Eph. 2:1-5; Tit. 3:5
- **RECONCILIATION** - The act where two enemies (sinful man and God) are brought back together into perfect harmony, resulting in an eternal spiritual relationship whereby there is complete peace **with** God. - Rom. 5:1,10; 2 Cor. 5:18-20; Col. 1:20-22; Eph. 2:14-22; Heb. 2:17
- **SPIRITUAL CIRCUMCISION** - The spiritual operation, made without hands, which divides (separates or cuts away) the new spiritual nature (in the new believer) from his old nature of sinful flesh. Afterwards, it is then up to the new believer to consciously surrender his own will to the new nature, if the believer is to grow as a Christian and mature spiritually. - Rom. 2:28-29; Phil. 3:3; Col. 2:8-12

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- **ADOPTION** - Upon salvation by grace through faith in the D/B/R of Jesus Christ, the act where God takes a sinner and puts him into the family of God. - Rom. 8:15; Gal.4:4-7; Eph. 1:3-7
- **SANCTIFICATION** - **Upon salvation**, the act whereby God sets the new believer apart by placing him/her into God's family. **After salvation**, the act whereby God sets the believer apart for God's service, at which point he is dealt with as a son rather than a stranger.-1 Cor. 1:30, 6:19-20; 1 Thess. 4:3-4; 2 Thess. 2:13; 1 Pet. 1:2
- **GLORIFICATION** - The ultimate end of the saved sinner, where he is made completely like Jesus Christ and given an inheritance in the kingdom of Jesus Christ. At salvation, all believers are predestinated to glorification. - Rom. 8:29-30; Col. 3:1-4; 1 Thess. 2:9-12; 2 Thess. 2:13-14; 1 Pet. 5:10; 2 Pet. 1:1-3
- **REPENT/REPENTANCE** - The **most** misused/misunderstood term in the Bible.

The devil abuses this term to deceptively bring man's good works into the gospel. To repent is to change your mind/heart **ABOUT ANYTHING!** (i.e. "repentance" is NOT to be understood as **only** being TIED TO "sin"!) [v.i. (verb intransitive) - An action word **NOT USED** with an **OBJECT** to complete its meaning.] A simple **Bible definition** of the word "repentance" - Matt. 21:28-30

1. To repent is to change your mind **FROM** something **TO** something else, e.g. attitudes, beliefs, actions, thoughts, doctrines words, etc. (anything!)
2. The Bible says God repented (or refused to repent) 39 times, therefore we know repentance does **NOT NECESSARILY** have to do with sin (since we know God had no sin to repent of!) - Jer. 18:8-10; 20:16; 26:19
3. REPENTANCE IS **NOT** (although these things can lead to repentance):
 - A desire or willingness to change your mind/heart
 - Being sorrowful, being sorry, or regretting something
 - Sincerely and diligently "doing your best" to turn or change directions

Regarding salvation, we must understand what we are repenting **FROM**:

- Examples: Unbelief, wrong belief, rejecting Jesus, self-righteousness, false gods, good works, doing "your best", water baptism, church membership, sacramentalism, etc. - John 16:7-9, 8:24
- In short, to be saved, each and every sinner must repent (have a change our mind/heart) **AWAY FROM** anything he/she are trusting other than faith alone in the D/B/R of Jesus Christ.