

THE MOST IMPORTANT BOOK IN THE WORLD!

ROMANS

Romans 1-3: PREPARING THE GROUND

1. The ultimate purpose of all God does is His Own Glory.
2. The Gloriousness of God's provision of salvation not only means something for man but it means something for God as well-- His Glory.
3. A common way of teaching Rom. 1-3 is with a building metaphor. Rom. 1:1-3:20 prepares the ground for receiving the Foundation of Justification by Grace through Faith.
4. For most, Rom. 1-3 does this by teaching the utter sinfulness of lost humanity, its wrath-worthiness and its hopelessness, so that humanity will recognize and appreciate its need for Justification by Grace through Faith.
5. What most ignore, however, because they do not "rightly divide" the Word of God, is that Rom. 1-3 teaches something else that is required to completely prepare the land: The Distinctive Apostleship of Paul.
6. According to God and Paul, in order to fully prepare the ground for the laying of the foundational doctrine of Justification by Grace through Faith we **MUST** work it with both the recognition of our sinfulness and ruin along with the recognition of Paul's distinct apostleship.

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7. To reject Paul's distinct Apostleship (as historical "Christianity" has done since the days of Paul himself) is to inadequately prepare the ground for the foundation of Justification by Grace through Faith to rest on.
8. Why? Because Paul's distinctive apostleship is the barrier that prevents "the waters of error" from seeping in.
9. To minimize or discard Paul's distinct Apostleship, allows for confusing of God's program with Israel with His program for the Body of Christ, bringing in confusion and error.
10. Ground only prepared with man's ruin and sinfulness and wrath-worthiness won't be enough to prevent error from seeping in around the foundation of Justification for the long-term. We saw this in Corinth, Galatia and to a lesser extent in Thessalonica.
11. The only ground that is firm, secure and stable enough to hold the foundation of Justification by Grace through Faith is the ground prepared with man's ruin and wrath worthiness AND the distinctive Apostleship of Paul

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12. This is especially relevant as we enter into Rom. 3.

13. Many commentators find this passage to be the most difficult to understand in all Paul's writings.

14. They typically view it as being desperate attempts by fallen sinners to try to excuse themselves from God's judgment by blaming God Himself. Their "Last Ditch Attempts."

15. This shows they are still rejecting the truth about their ruin, sinfulness and wrath-worthiness, and they are trying to defend themselves by placing the blame on God.

16. So why do scholars have trouble with this? Because it doesn't have the "ring of truth."

17. We all have heard people trying to defend themselves by minimizing or relativizing sin, like those in Rom. 2.

18. But has anyone really heard anyone say, yes, I am a terribly sinful person, unfaithful liar but this gives God an opportunity to display His righteousness so He would be wrong to judge me?

Romans 3: PREPARING THE GROUND

1. Could there be a better explanation based on the distinct Apostleship of Paul?
2. Rom. 1 opened with God introducing Paul's Apostleship for His Name's Sake, for the Glory of His Name. Rom. 1:5.
3. Rom. 2 opens with God using the instrument of Paul's Apostleship to dispense the Riches of His Goodness, Forbearance and Longsuffering, the Riches of His Glory. Rom. 2:4 w/Rom.11
4. Could Rom. 3 likewise open with an emphasis on Paul's Apostleship?
5. The first thing to notice is that in Rom. 3:1-7 Paul is still dealing with the Jews/Israel.
Rom. 3:1-2
6. In the light of Paul's distinct Apostleship, is there a simple reason why Jews would accuse Paul of saying God was unfaithful, unrighteous and untruthful?
7. The Jews would hear (selectively) Paul say things like: God has blinded Israel. God has cast Israel aside, Israel has stumbled and fallen, God is now treating her in severity because of her unbelief and unrighteousness, He has broken off her branches.

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8. If is as though Paul's enemies are trying to prosecute against Paul's apostleship by dragging God Himself into the witness box to bear witness against Paul's teaching!
9. They are arguing that if what Paul is saying is true, then God is unfaithful, unrighteous and untruthful because that would mean that He has broken His promises and Word to Israel!
10. Of course, God isn't going to bear witness against Paul because the strategy of the prosecution is obliterate by one word: TEMPORARY.
11. Rom. 11:7-28—Israel's blindness is partial and her casting away is only temporary. God hasn't permanently turned off His program with Israel. He has just put it on "pause" and will re-start it again in the future.
12. Rom. 11:33-36—God's Glory in the distinctive Apostleship of Paul is maintained!
13. Rom. 3:1-7 brings together both the sinfulness and wrath-worthiness of humanity with the distinctive Apostleship of Paul in order to completely prepare the ground for the foundation of Justification by Faith through Grace.