

THE MOST IMPORTANT BOOK IN THE WORLD!

**ROMANS**

# Romans 3:1-8: Paul's Apostleship and Man's Ruin

1. There are 2 main lines of teaching interwoven in Rom. 1:1-3:20:
  - a. Paul's Distinct Apostleship
  - b. Man's Ruin and God's Wrath
2. Rom. 1 explains that the primary reason God created Paul's Apostleship is for His Glory. Rom. 1:5; 11:33-36
3. Rom. 2 explains that it is through Paul's Apostleship that God is now dispensing the Riches of His Glory. Rom. 2:4; 9:22; 11:12-33
4. These 2 truths are interwoven in Romans, and this is of particular importance in Rom. 3:1-8.
5. The truth of Man's Ruin and God's Wrath alone does not provide enough light to fully illuminate this passage. But when we add to this the light of the truth of Paul's Apostleship we can see things more clearly.
6. The first thing to note is that Paul is still dealing with the Jews and Israel. He has not turned back to fallen humanity in general. Rom. 3:1-2

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7. These are Jewish objections to what Paul taught in Rom. 2 and the general implications of his Apostleship.
8. In Rom. 2:17-29 Paul concluded two major things:
  - a. Having broken the Law, the Jews in Paul's day were under God's Wrath and Judgment.
  - b. Having broken the Law, God is now dealing with the Jews on the same basis as the "sinners of the Gentiles." Rom. 2:12,25; Gal. 2:15
9. First Jewish Objection: Well, Paul, if what you are saying is true—that neither the Law nor external circumcision removes the Jews from God's Wrath then what advantage is there to being a Jew and what value in circumcision? Rom. 2:1
10. Paul's Response: Much in every way! Especially God gave Israel His Oracles, God's Word and Worship!
  - a. Rom. 9:4-5: This a list of what the Oracles of God consist of.
  - b. Acts 7:38-39: They include the Law
  - c. Heb. 5:12; 6:1: They include the doctrine of Christ and Israel's earthly Kingdom.

# Romans 3:1-8 Paul's Apostleship and Man's Ruin

11. What would the Jew have heard Paul say with regard to national Israel and God's Oracles?
- Paul preached that God has now set aside national Israel and her Prophetic Program and is now working through the Body of Christ and her Mystery Program  
Rom. 9-11; Eph 3.
  - God is doing this apart from Israel and through her Fall. Rom. 11:11-12
  - Israel's Fall consisted of her unbelief, unfaithfulness, unrighteousness and falsehood, esp. with regard to Christ. Rom. 9:30-10:4; Acts 13:26-41; Rom. 11:11-12

12. With this in mind it is not hard to understand the next Jewish objection that if what Paul is saying is true about God having set Israel aside because of her unbelief, then that means her unbelief sets aside the faithfulness of God, prevents Him from being faithful.

13. Paul's Response: Absolutely Not!

- Even if no one believed it wouldn't prevent God from being faithful. He would remain faithful to His Oracles and true to Himself.
- God's faithfulness is not primarily to Israel but to His Oracles and Himself. In doing this, of course, He also remains faithful to Israel.

# Romans 3: Preparing the Ground For Salvation

14. Look at David. God gave His Oracles to David, the Davidic Covenant. But then David sinned in committing adultery and murder and was brought under God's wrath and judgment. Did this prevent God from being faithful to the Oracles he entrusted to Israel through David?

- Absolutely not! Regardless of David, God still fulfilled His oracles and the coming of Christ as promised in the Davidic Covenant to Israel proves it.
- God is first of all faithful to His Oracles and true to Himself, and only secondarily as a result of this He is also faithful to David and Israel. Ps. 51:1-6

15. With what Paul was preaching in mind, the third objection also becomes clearer. Well, Paul, if what you are saying about what God is doing through your apostleship is true, then that means our (Israel's) unrighteousness commends God's Righteousness and, therefore, we should not be under His wrath. Rom. 3:5-6

16. Paul's Response: Absolutely Not! I speak in foolish human terms. How then would God judge the world? For the Gentiles could use the same logic to escape God's wrath themselves!

# Romans 3: Preparing the Ground For Salvation

17. Jewish Objection Four: Well, Paul, if what you are saying is true about what God is doing through your apostleship, then it is through my (as a an Israelite or Paul numbering himself among Israel's liars when he persecuted Christ's followers) falsehood the truth of God abounds unto His Glory, then I should not be considered to be on the same level as the "sinners of the Gentiles".

18. Jewish Objection Five: Paul everything you say and do is based on the principle of "Let us do evil that good may come!"

19. Paul's Response: Your condemnation is just!

20. When we recognize what God is doing today through Paul's Apostleship IN powerfully working in the midst of the ungodly and sinners, in the midst of sin and death, in the midst of wickedness and evil...to BRING HIS BLESSING AND GOODNESS TO THOSE WHO NEED IT.

21. God doesn't want to improve or even give us a new world view. He wants to throw away our human worldly view and replace it with His own divine and heavenly view.

22. 2 Cor. 12:9-11—Hopeless situations are not a time for despair! They are a time for God to work powerfully in and through us to bring into it God's love, grace, peace, etc. !