

## Romans Chapter 3 Continued

Verses 15-17 are quoted from Isaiah 59:7-8.

### **Romans 3:15 "Their feet [are] swift to shed blood:"**

This is speaking of evil men. Of course, we know that some of the Jewish leaders of the church wanted all the Christians killed. They even thought they were doing God a favor to kill the Christians.

The next few verses are describing people without understanding. They are without the love of God within them. Their desire is to destroy and make others miserable. This really is like so many gangs in our country today. They have no desire to build, just to tear down and destroy what someone else has built. They like to make others miserable thinking with their perverted mind that seeing someone more miserable than themselves will bring them happiness. They are not peace makers. How could they fear what they do not know? They do not know God.

### **Romans 3:16 "Destruction and misery [are] in their ways:"**

Man damages and destroys everything he touches, leaving a trail of pain and suffering in his wake.

### **Romans 3:17 "And the way of peace have they not known:"**

Not the lack of an inner sense of peace, but man's tendency toward strife and conflict, whether between individuals or nations.

### **Romans 3:18 "There is no fear of God before their eyes."**

Man's true spiritual condition is nowhere more clearly seen than in the absence of a proper submission to and reverence for God. Biblical fear for God consists of:

- (1) Awe of His greatness and glory, and
- (2) Dread of the results of violating that holy nature.

### **Romans 3:19 "Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God."**

This is speaking of every unredeemed human being.

Just the fact the Jews had the law did not make them not guilty of sin. In fact, if anything it made them guiltier, because they had the law and did not keep it. All have sinned. All have come short of the Glory of God.

“Every mouth ... stopped ... guilty:” There is no defense against the guilty verdict God pronounces on the entire human race.

**Romans 3:20 "Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law [is] the knowledge of sin."**

The law just made it even more apparent that all have sinned and needed a Savior. We will read (in chapter 5 of Romans), that Jesus died for the ungodly. We cannot be good enough to be saved. Jesus Christ is the only person that ever lived without sin.

**Romans 3:21 "But now, the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets;"**

Paul, having shown the impossibility of gaining righteousness by human effort, he turns to explain the righteousness that God Himself has provided.

This righteousness is unique:

- (1) God is its source;
- (2) It fulfills both the penalty and precept of God's law. Christ's death as a substitute pays the penalty exacted on those who failed to keep God's law, and His perfect obedience to every requirement of God's law fulfills God's demand for comprehensive righteousness; and
- (3) Because God's righteousness is eternal, the one who receives it from Him enjoys it forever.

Doing perfectly what God's moral law required is impossible, so that every person is cursed by that inability. By the law is knowledge of sin, therefore the law only makes sin known, it cannot save. It is our schoolmaster.

Galatians 3:24: Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster [to bring us] unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

**Romans 3:22 "Even the righteousness of God [which is] by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:"**

True saving faith is supernatural, a gracious gift of God that He produces in the heart and is the only means by which a person can appropriate true righteousness. Saving faith consists of 3 elements:

- (1) Mental: the mind understands the gospel and the truth about Christ
- (2) Emotional: one embraces the truthfulness of those facts with sorrow over sin and joy over God's mercy and grace; and
- (3) Volitional: the sinner submits his will to Christ and trusts in Him alone as the only hope of salvation.

Genuine faith will always produce authentic obedience.

Our righteousness is but filthy rags in ourselves. Our righteousness that is acceptable to God is the righteousness of Jesus Christ that we put on when we accept Jesus as our Savior and Lord.

**Romans 3:23 "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;"**

This is not just the heathen, but the Jew, as well. No one can live completely free of sin. Our justification in Jesus is (justification meaning: just as if we had never sinned). We have sinned, but we are not guilty, because we have been washed in the blood of the Lamb (Jesus Christ).

These last two verses contain a parenthetical comment explaining that God can bestow His righteousness on all who believe, Jew or Gentile, because all men, without distinction, fail miserably to live up to the divine decree.

“All have sinned”: Paul has made this case beginning with (1:18 – 3:20).

**Romans 3:24 "Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:"**

This verb (justified), and related words from the same Greek root (such as justification), occur some 30 times in Romans and are concentrated (in 2:13 – 5:1). This legal or forensic term comes from the Greek word for “righteous” and means “to declare righteous.” This verdict includes pardon from the guilt and penalty of sin, and the imputation of Christ’s righteousness to the believer’s account. Which provides for the positive righteousness man needs to be accepted by God.

God declares a sinner righteous solely on the basis of the merits of Christ’s righteousness. God imputed a believer’s sin to Christ’s account in His sacrificial death. (Isaiah 53:4-5; 1 Peter 2:24), and He imputes Christ’s perfect obedience to God’s law to Christians.

The sinner receives this gift of God’s grace by faith alone.

Sanctification is the work of God by which He makes righteous those whom He has already justified and is distinct from justification but without exception, always follows it.

“Freely by His grace”: Justification is a gracious gift God extends to the repentant, believing sinner, wholly apart from human merit or work.

“Redemption”: The imagery behind this Greek word comes from the ancient slave market. It meant paying the necessary ransom to obtain the prisoner or slave’s release. The only adequate payment to redeem sinners from sin’s slavery and its deserved punishment was “in Christ Jesus”, and was paid to God to satisfy His justice.

**Romans 3:25 "Whom God hath set forth [to be] a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;"**

This great sacrifice was not accomplished in secret, but God publicly displayed His Son on Calvary for all to see.

“Propitiation”: Crucial to the significance of Christ’s sacrifice, this word carries the idea of appeasement or satisfaction; in this case Christ’s violent death satisfied the offended holiness and wrath of God against those for whom Christ died. The Hebrew equivalent of this word was used to describe the mercy seat, the cover to the Ark of the Covenant, where the High Priest sprinkled the blood of the slaughtered animal on the Day of Atonement to make atonement for the sins of the people. In pagan religions, it is the worshiper not the god who is responsible to appease the wrath of the offended deity. But in reality, man is incapable of satisfying God’s justice apart from Christ, except by spending eternity in hell.

“Forbearance”: means to hold back. Rather than destroying every person the moment he or she sins, God graciously holds back His judgment.

“Remission of sins”: This means neither indifference nor remission. God’s justice demands that every sin and sinner be punished. God would have been just, when Adam and Eve sinned, to destroy them, and with them, the entire human race. But in His goodness and forbearance, He withheld His judgment for a certain period of time.

2 Corinthians 5:21 "For he hath made him [to be] sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."

**Romans 3:26 "To declare, [I say], at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus."**

“To declare ... His righteousness”: through the incarnation, sinless life, and substitutionary death of Christ.

The wisdom of God’s plan allowed Him to punish Jesus in the place of sinners and thereby justify those who are guilty without compromising His justice.

**Romans 3:27 "Where [is] boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay: but by the law of faith."**

God disdained human wisdom, not only by disallowing it as a means to knowing Him, but also by choosing to save the lowly. He does not call to salvation many whom the world would call wise, mighty and noble.

Ephesians 2:8-10 "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: [it is] the gift of God:" "Not of works, lest any man should boast." "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."

God's wisdom is revealed to the foolish, weak, and common. I.e., those considered nothing by the elite, who trust in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. God clearly received all the credit and the glory for causing such lowly ones to know Him and the eternal truths of His heavenly kingdom.

No saved sinner can boast that he has achieved salvation by his intellect.

**Romans 3:28 "Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law."**

Keeping the ordinances of the law will not do away with sin and will not save anyone. Without faith, it is impossible to please God.

Hebrews 11:1 "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

To find out what faith can do for you and did do for many (read all of Hebrews chapter 11).

**Romans 3:29 "[Is he] the God of the Jews only? [is he] not also of the Gentiles? Yes, of the Gentiles also:"**

God was the Creator of all mankind. Mankind both Jew and Gentile was made in the image of God. We are His workmanship. All He created was for the benefit of mankind. He prepared the world for man. God is God of all. We are all part of God's family. There is one God and Father of us all.

Ephesians 4:6: "One God and Father of all, who [is] above all, and through all, and in you all."

**Romans 3:30 "Seeing [it is] one God, which shall justify the circumcision by faith, and uncircumcision through faith."**

The circumcision are the Jews and the uncircumcision refers to the Gentile, and both can only be saved by faith in Jesus Christ.

John 14:6 "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

**Romans 3:31 "Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law."**

Knowing he would be accused of antinomianism (being against the law), for arguing that a man was justified apart from keeping the law, Paul introduced here the defense he later developed (in chapters 6 and 7).

Salvation by grace through faith does not denigrate the law, but underscores its true importance:

- (1) By providing a payment for the penalty of death, which the law required for failing to keep it;

- (2) By fulfilling the law's original purpose, which is to serve as a tutor to show mankind's utter inability to obey God's righteous demands and to drive people to Christ; and
- (3) By giving believers the capacity to obey it.

The law is not done away with by Jesus, but fulfilled in Him. The law is good. The law declares the need to be righteous. Jesus makes it possible to be righteous in Him. The law showed us our great need for Jesus as our Savior.

### **Romans Chapter 3 Continued Questions**

1. In verse 15, their feet are quick to do what?
2. In verse 16, what 2 things are in their way?
3. In verse 18, there is no \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ before their eyes?
4. The law speaks to whom?
5. Who became guilty before God?
6. Who can be justified by the deeds of the law?
7. By what is the knowledge of sin?
8. Verse 21 says, 2 witnessed the righteousness of God, what were they?
9. The righteousness of God is by what?
10. Who have sinned and come short of the glory of God?
11. What makes Christians justified?
12. Who are the people around the throne in white robes in Revelation chapter 7?
13. We are justified freely by what?
14. Acts chapter 13:39, who are the justified?
15. What is grace?
16. What does propitiation mean?
17. We must have faith in what?
18. Almost all things are purged by what?
19. What is Jesus called in verse 26?

20. What question is asked in verse 27?
21. Ephesians chapter 2:8 says, by \_\_\_\_\_ are ye saved
22. Ephesians 2:9 says, "Not of \_\_\_\_\_ lest any man should \_\_\_\_\_."
23. In Ephesians 2:10, we Christians are called what?
24. A man is justified by \_\_\_\_\_ without the \_\_\_\_\_ of the law.
25. Verse 29 says, God is who`s God?
26. The circumcision is justified by what?
27. What effect does faith have on the law?