

Know the Truth of God

Romans 3:1-8 Then what advantage has the Jew? Or what is the value of circumcision? ² Much in every way. To begin with, the Jews were entrusted with the oracles of God. ³ What if some were unfaithful? Does their faithlessness nullify the faithfulness of God? ⁴ By no means! Let God be true though every one were a liar, as it is written,

“That you may be justified in your words,
and prevail when you are judged.”

⁵ But if our unrighteousness serves to show the righteousness of God, what shall we say? That God is unrighteous to inflict wrath on us? (I speak in a human way.) ⁶ By no means! For then how could God judge the world? ⁷ But if through my lie God's truth abounds to his glory, why am I still being condemned as a sinner? ⁸ And why not do evil that good may come?—as some people slanderously charge us with saying. Their condemnation is just.

❖ Intro

- **These are very complicated verses...**
 - Extremely difficult to wrap your brain around...
 - But there is also a simplicity within them
- **What should our response be to hard to understand verses in the Bible...**
 - **Dig in!**
 - But, we run from things we do not understand...
 - Or we assume they are not meant for us
 - Or we begin to question God's wisdom
 - **God is big and great...**
 - Therefore it makes sense that there will be things about God...
 - That take some time and consideration and prayer...
- **Take the time to get to know God...**
 - Take the time to wrestle with God's word
 - Do not read it once or ten times and walk away because you do not understand...
 - God is GREAT... and therefore understanding Him requires GREAT effort
 - **Example:**
 - The Atom... is the basic unit of matter...
 - ◆ Solids, liquids, and gases are all made up of atoms...
 - ◆ And within the atom there are lots of moving parts...
 - There are protons and neutrons and electrons...
 - And different units of matter have different amounts of these parts of an atom
 - It is fascinating... because they are moving...
 - ◆ And how many of each of these units help make up what kind of matter they are
 - ◆ People have been studying these things for thousands of years....
 - Yet much of it wasn't even discovered until the early 1900s
 - And even now... new things are discovered about atoms...
 - They are so simple... yet so complex...
 - Take the time to get to know God in His Word...!
- **Yet... There is a simplicity in knowing God...**
 - So simple that a child can know God...
 - And we are commanded to come to God like a child...
- Today: There are principles and truths found within these verses for us to consider...
 - But first... we must remember from where we have come from...

❖ Review

- **Remember that Paul is making the point that all people are under sin and need the gospel**
 - He wants to make sure that all people run to verse 16 of chapter 1
 - The Gospel is the power of God unto salvation for all who believe...
- **This is important b/c so many people did not see their need for the gospel...**
- **End of chapter 2 closes with this thought from Paul...**
 - That a person is a child of God... not because of their birth...
 - Rather it is by the Spirit of God...
 - It is a matter of the heart...
- **This launches Paul into a defense of what He has been preaching...**
 - So... lets try to summarize what paul says in the next 8 verses...
 - These verses are filled with Truths about God and His nature...
 - And they are also filled with arguments from Paul...
 - And these are the things that people get confused...
 - But remember... Paul is making arguments to prove His message...
 - Because there were many people disagreeing with Paul's gospel message...
- **So... Let's consider what we can today... without getting too overwhelmed...**

❖ Outline:

- 1) Paul's Gospel Message
- 2) Objections Objections Objections
 - Questioning God...
 - 1) Questioning God's Faithfulness
 - 2) Questioning God's Righteousness
 - 3) Questioning God's commands to not sin
- 3) There is no greater privilege than to be spoken to directly by God
- 4) Having and Hearing God's Word does not Exempt one from God's Judgments
- 5) God is Just in all of His Judgments
- 6) God's Promises do not depend on Faithless Man
- 7) Our Sin Magnifies the Truth of God for His Glory

Before we Begin... My Prayer is that... in the middle of these verses... you see something about God that you never have before... Something that brings you great comfort... or something that brings your great conviction... Yet something that draws you closer to God

❖ 1) Paul's Gospel Message

- Men are saved by the Grace of God received through Faith in the Sacrifice of Jesus
 - Simple... Here is a verse that says the same thing... And Paul is about to get to this...
 - **Romans 3:23-25 ²³for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith**
- Expound....
- **Many did not like this message...**
 - they have objections rooted in what they had heard from Paul
 - but... Paul's message had come straight from God...
- **Paul just through a stink bomb into their living room...**
 - And they just got all upset...
 - Cause He just said:

- Romans 2:29 ²⁹ But a Jew is one inwardly, and circumcision is a matter of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter. His praise is not from man but from God.
 - ◆ And these guys are like: Whoa!!!! Hold up a minute...
 - I am Jewish... I am going to heaven!!!
 - Don't question my standing with God, Paul!

- **Application:**

- Just Like us... Many of us say the same thing...
 - ◆ Preacher... Don't you tell me I am in danger of going to hell...
 - ◆ My grandmammy was a Christian and she prayed for me everyday
 - ◆ I was baptized when I was 10 years old...
 - ◆ I have come to church almost every Sunday...
 - ◆ And I vote Republican!
- Let's be careful that we make sure we know the truth... and that we know God
- So... naturally... they have some objections...

❖ 2) Objections Objections Objections

- **Questioning God...**

- 1) Questioning God's Faithfulness
- 2) Questioning God's Righteousness
- 3) Questioning God's commands to not sin

- **1) Questioning God's Faithfulness**

- **What if some were unfaithful? Does their faithlessness nullify the faithfulness of God?**
- **Remember...** their objection is to the message that Paul was preaching...
 - And therefore... their objection was to God Himself...
 - Objecting to Paul saying that it isn't circumcision that saves...
 - Rather it is a matter of the heart... by the Spirit of God
- **Essentially...** Where is the advantage of having the Word of God...?
 - The law of God... as the Jewish people did...
 - What advantage is there to that... if we are all considered sinners...
 - **And... if Israelites will be found outside of the grace of God...**
 - ◆ Then... what about His promises... What about His faithfulness...
 - ◆ This would make Him unfaithful if some of us are going to be condemned
 - Cause he promised...
 - **What they failed to understand was that...**
 - ◆ Being born into the nation of Israel... is not how they got the promises...
 - ◆ Rather... it was through Faith in the One who had given them His Word
 - To that person were the promises given...
- **They questioned God's Faithfulness...**
 - Because of the Faithlessness of man

- **2) Questioning God's Righteousness**

- ⁵ But if our unrighteousness serves to show the righteousness of God, what shall we say? That God is unrighteous to inflict wrath on us? (I speak in a human way)... ⁷ But if through my lie God's truth abounds to his glory, why am I still being condemned as a sinner?
- **Here we go again...**
 - They say... I hear you Paul... If what your saying about God is true...
 - ◆ Then I got another issue with your message...
 - ◆ God can not inflict wrath upon me...
 - Now... these guys were playing around with God's Word and Paul's message...

- **Paul is teaching that the sinfulness of man displays the righteousness of God...**
 - They say... well... then God should not judge us Israelites...
 - WRONG!!!!
- **They were questioning God's righteousness in judgment...**
 - And they did so because Paul taught that our Lies make God's truth abound
 - This naturally led to another objection...
- **3) Questioning God's commands to not sin**
 - **⁸ And why not do evil that good may come?—as some people slanderously charge us with saying. Their condemnation is just.**
 - **If sin makes God righteousness abound...**
 - Let's just sin some more... so God will be glorified more and more...
 - **Paul answers this with a very quick**
 - Their condemnation is just...
 - If a person even thinks like that... their being condemned will be just...
 - ◆ Why?
 - Because they have played around with the Word of God to prove themselves
 - They have tried to twist God's Word around with false arguments...
 - Paul has no patience for people like that...
 - **So... there are some of their objections to Paul's message...**
 - Inside of these verses Paul has left us some golden nuggets...
 - And these nuggets teach us truth about God and His nature...
- ❖ **3) There is no greater privilege than to be spoken to directly by God**
 - **Then what advantage has the Jew? Or what is the value of circumcision? ² Much in every way. To begin with, the Jews were entrusted with the oracles of God.**
 - **Could there be a greater honor in the universe?**
 - Than for God to speak to you?
 - What an honor...
 - There is nothing else that even compares
 - If the entire population of the world stopped to speak just to you...
 - ◆ It would not be a greater honor...
 - **There is such an advantage to having the Word of God...**
 - Look at this advantage in the life of Timothy
 - **1 Timothy 3:14-16 ¹⁴ But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it ¹⁵ and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.**
 - There is an advantage to bring one to salvation
 - For equipping for good works...
 - Expound
 - **What are our Advantages today?**
 - Our children
 - **This advantage is nullified when a person does not believe...**
 - When they reject the Words of Almighty God...
 - They would be better off having never heard them
- ❖ **4) Having and Hearing God's Word does not Exempt one from God's Judgments**
 - **Where do I get this from?**

- Well... Paul makes this point because of the objections raised by the Jewish population
- They assumed that since they had been given the law
- And they had been given the covenant sign of circumcision...
- **They therefore would be exempt from any negative judgments...**
 - I am not saying that all Jewish people believed this...
 - But it seems that a large number believed this...
- **Because many of them felt this way...**
 - It was hard for them to see their need for a Savior in Jesus...
 - Because they had the law... and the law would save them...
- **Paul writes here...**
 - **³What if some were unfaithful? Does their faithlessness nullify the faithfulness of God?**
 - God faithfully gave His Word and promises...
 - ◆ But... some people were unfaithful...
- **BUT! Having and hearing God's Word does not Exempt people from His Judgment**
 - They must follow it...
 - And I do not mean follow it by keeping every regulation of the law...
 - I mean... by following the one that the Word Points toward...
 - Jesus!
- **Application:**
 - Sitting under Bible preaching does not assure you a place in heaven
 - Having a copy or 12 of God's Word and carrying it with you on your phone...
 - Does not ensure you a place in heaven...
 - **Look at Paul's Explanation:**
 - He uses a verse from Psalm 51...
 - ◆ Psalm 51 was written by King David
 - ◆ It was and is a Psalm of repentance...
 - Romans 3:4 **Let God be true though every one were a liar, as it is written, "That you may be justified in your words, and prevail when you are judged."**
 - First of all... Paul makes the point... God will be true to His Word...
 - ◆ Even if the whole world is condemned...
 - ◆ I think that is what He is getting at here when he says...
 - **Let God be true though every one were a liar,**
 - **He is essentially saying... God would be just in condemning every person**
 - **Let that sink in**
 - **How does Paul Prove this point:**
 - Well... He uses the King Jew... David to do it...
 - David is looked upon as probably the greatest figure in Jewish History...
 - ◆ He is definitely on the Mt Rushmore of OT Bible people
 - Abraham, Moses, David
 - **And God had made a lot of promises to David...**
 - ◆ David who was considered a man after God's own heart...
 - **David would not presume upon God though...**
 - Even though God had promised David many things...
 - David sinned against God...
 - David took another man's wife... and had the husband killed...
 - And here is a man... David... who had been given so many promises from God...
 - **And lets look at what He says...**
 - ◆ **"That you may be justified in your words, and prevail when you are judged."**

- Essentially.... God... you are right to judge me...
- I deserve it... And you are right to do whatever you decide with me
- ◆ Let's look at the full thought from David in Psalm 51:4
 - Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment.
 - David says... because of my sin... you are right to judge me...

▪ **But David doesn't stop there...**

- He continues to ask for God's cleansing and mercy...
 - ◆ Psalm 51:8-12 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. ⁸ Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice. ⁹ Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. ¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. ¹¹ Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. ¹² Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.

➤ **The example of David shows Paul's Audience then... and His Audience Now...**

- If David needed grace... So do we...
- We need the grace of God...
- Because we are all under sin...

➤ **Application:**

- Don't rest on the fact that you have heard God's Word...
- And you assume you are right with God...
- You must respond in Faith
- Make sure your Hope Rest completely in Jesus Christ...
- That your faith is in Him alone... and that God has given you His grace

❖ **Invitation**

❖ 5) God is Just in all of His Judgments

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❖ 6) God's Promises do not depend on Faithless Man

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❖ 7) Our Sin Magnifies the Truth of God for His Glory

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