

## Know the Truth of God

Romans 3:1-8 Then what advantage has the Jew? Or what is the value of circumcision? <sup>2</sup> Much in every way. To begin with, the Jews were entrusted with the oracles of God. <sup>3</sup> What if some were unfaithful? Does their faithlessness nullify the faithfulness of God? <sup>4</sup> 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.”

<sup>5</sup> 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.) <sup>6</sup> By no means! For then how could God judge the world? <sup>7</sup> But if through my lie God's truth abounds to his glory, why am I still being condemned as a sinner? <sup>8</sup> And why not do evil that good may come?—as some people slanderously charge us with saying. Their condemnation is just.

### ❖ Introduction

- Difficult verses... But really Good...!!!
- Romans 1:16
- Romans 3:23-25 <sup>23</sup> for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, <sup>24</sup> and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, <sup>25</sup> whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith

### ❖ 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

### ❖ Review

- **Paul is Answering the Objections of two groups of people**
  - 1) Jewish people outside the church
  - 2) Jewish Christians inside the church
- **Before we go any further...**
  - I need you to know you ought to listen...
  - This is not just a message about the history of the church in Paul's time...
  - Every word written in the Bible is written for the Christian's benefit
    - You need to hear it...
    - Not only that... but you need to learn from it.
  - This book of Romans is the greatest book in the whole Bible...
    - In terms of teaching us the Theology of Salvation...
    - No other books digs in so deeply into the ways and mysteries of God...
    - As He has worked out our salvation...
    - Without this book, our understanding would be limited...
  - And there is a lot of application just for you...

- **Paul's message was very difficult for them to comprehend...**
  - It was very difficult for them to come to grips with...
  - Because it told them... "Hey... everything you know about how to get to heaven...
    - Well... It is wrong"
- **Can you imagine how well that went over?**
  - These guys believed that the promises of God to bless them and save them...
    - Just came automatically when they were born
    - They believed that by matter of birth and subsequently the covenant sign
      - ◆ Of circumcision...
    - That because of those two things... they were included in the kingdom of God
- **Paul is telling them that is not the case...**
  - And they do not like it one bit...
- **Paul has said... just because you are Jewish and just because you are circumcised...**
  - Doesn't mean you will be going to heaven when you die...
  - APPLICATION: Can't we say the same thing today...
    - Christian family.... Baptism... Church membership or attendance...
- **Well... when He says this... they begin to object logically...**
  - And their objections are something like this:
    - 1) They accused Paul of saying that the Jewish People had no advantage for being a Jew... or that being God's special chosen people was meaningless
    - 2) They believed that Paul had attacked the Promises of God
    - 3) You are saying that God is using man's sin for His own glory... and you are disgracing the righteous nature of God
  - **Now...** if it is true that Paul was doing these things.... Then there is a problem...
    - A huge problem... because God's Word does not teach these things...
- **Their Big Problem...**
  - The nation as a whole had forsaken the Word of God...
  - **You** can follow their history to see it...
    - There was even a point where they had lost the Book of the Law...
    - And it wasn't until it was found under the kingship of Josiah that they recovered it...
  - **Since their return from exile by the Babylonians...**
    - They had relied heavily on the writings of their Rabbis and Priests...
    - As a matter of fact, most had seemingly relied more heavily on the writings of Rabbis
    - Than on the writings of God...
  - **Instead of going to the source... they went to a man to explain the source...**
    - And the men had twisted the key...
    - **Luke 11:52 <sup>52</sup> Woe to you lawyers! For you have taken away the key of knowledge. You did not enter yourselves, and you hindered those who were entering."**
- **Application:**
  - What about us?
    - Do we do this?
      - ◆ Do we go straight to God's Word first? Do we dig in to see what God is saying?

## ❖ Last Week

- **Remember...** We are dealing with the **Truths** that come out of these verses...
  - I am looking at them in a way that makes it easier for us to understand...
  - **Instead of going through each verse and dissecting it...**
    - So you can see exactly what the argument is... and what is the response...
    - And who said what...
    - I am trying to pull out of the verses... the truths that Paul is teaching...

- I am trying to pull out statements that tell us something true about God...
- Why? So you can know God better...
  - ◆ So you can understand this passage a little better...
    - I will do some of that... but I do not intend to be too technical with it
  - ◆ So... dig in with me...
- 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
  - Just because they had the advantage...
    - Just because they had God's Word...
    - Did not mean they would trust in it...
    - Did not mean they were exempt when they went astray
      - ◆ No more than having a monopoly "Get out of Jail Free Card"
        - Would actually get you out of jail

#### ❖ 5) God is Just in all of His Judgments

- <sup>4</sup>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."  
<sup>5</sup>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.) <sup>6</sup>By no means! For then how could God judge the world?
- **Their objections is that...** if our unrighteous behavior shows the righteousness of God...
  - Then God can not inflict wrath on us...
  - They make this objection because Paul does indeed teach something like this...
    - That our sin will ultimately bring glory to God...
  - **Paul says:**
    - **Romans 5:20** The Law came in so that the transgression would increase; but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more,
      - ◆ **The more sin there is... the more grace is needed...**
      - ◆ **That is just a statement of fact...**
- **But... they say... will this makes God unjust...**
  - And Paul's answer is... Not at All... Heaven forbid...
    - He answers with...
      - ◆ **For then how could God judge the world?**
      - ◆ **And God will Judge the World...**
        - **We all know that... right... we know He will...**
        - **Because He is just ...**
- **God does not condone sin...**
  - They have twisted a very precious truth...
  - Yes... sin increases... therefore... grace increased...
  - Jesus died for sins... and this glorified Him...
    - But this in no way makes God unjust...
- **Paul is saying... you're twisting God's word...**
  - **You are twisting the truth when you say that...**

- Do not take what I say and call unjust... because God is just in all His judgments...
- **He gives the example of David...**
  - Remember from last week?
    - This is how He proves His Point...
  - **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. <sup>8</sup>Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice. <sup>9</sup>Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. <sup>10</sup>Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. <sup>11</sup>Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. <sup>12</sup>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:**
  - God is just...
    - Do not think you can weasel your way around God's Word for you benefit...
    - Do not think you can be like some lawyer...
    - That pleads insanity for his obviously sane client...
    - Don't try to work around God's Word so you can do what you want
  - God is smarter than you are... He will find you out in a minute...
    - He will see you sin... He will see your twisting of His Word...
  - And as a righteous Judge would... He will know the truth...
    - His eyes are like eyes of fire...
    - peering deeply into the heart and soul of every man...

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

- **<sup>3</sup> What if some were unfaithful? Does their faithlessness nullify the faithfulness of God?**
  - We touched on this verse with our third point last week
    - ◆ Having and hearing God's Word Does not Exempt You From Judgment
- **God's Promises do not depend on Faithless Man**
  - Here... Paul is teaching... God is faithful to fulfill his promises...
    - Even when men are unfaithful...
- **First of All... the promises were to the nation as a whole...**
  - Not to each individual that was born into the nation...
    - And they did not understand this...
    - They saw everything as physical... when God is speaking Spiritually
- **The promises of heaven and eternal life are given to those who:**
  - Trust in God by putting their faith in God...
  - Just like Abraham...
- **A lot of men did not do that...**
  - A lot of men trusted in other things...
  - Therefore... not everyone would receive the promise of eternal life...
- **BUT... Some people's unfaithfulness to God did not nullify His promises...**
  - The promises are still there...
  - But they are there to those whom God gives it by Faith...
- **NOTE THIS TODAY...**
  - The Bible teaches that no man is righteous before God
  - Psalm 130:3 If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? <sup>4</sup> But with you there is forgiveness, that you may be feared.
  - So... if God is going to promise anything... it will depend on Him to accomplish it
    - If eternal life were dependent on man... no man would ever come before God
  - No Man is right before God...
  - Do you see the beautiful nature of the gospel here today?
    - Do you see what God has done
    - With a world full of rebels...
    - With a world full of haters of God by their actions
    - With a world of people who want to run the other way
      - ◆ And do their own thing...
- **God has fulfilled His promises...**
  - And His promises were not dependent on sinful rebellious man...
  - Rather... God stepped in with His Son Jesus
  - And the power of His Spirit...
  - And He saved man... not of their own work
    - Zechariah 4:6 Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' says the Lord of hosts.
- **What did He say in Ezekiel that He would do?**
  - In speaking to the people of Israel... and I believe... those who become Israel by Faith
  - Look at what He says He will do...
  - Notice how many times He says "I"
  - Ezekiel 36:25-27 "For I will take you from the nations, gather you from all the lands and bring you into your own land. "Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols."Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh."I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances.
    - I will do these things God says!

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

- <sup>7</sup> But if through my lie God's truth abounds to his glory, why am I still being condemned as a sinner? <sup>8</sup> And why not do evil that good may come?—as some people slanderously charge us with saying. Their condemnation is just.
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  - **Our sin does magnify the truth of God for His glory**
    - But... Our sin is an attack on the glory and righteous nature of God
    - Just because God is able to be glorious despite our rebellion...
      - Does not mean that God condones sinful behavior
      - Nor does this disqualify God to judge the world...
  - **God finds fault because all men have sinned against Him**
    - Therefore... God is able to judge those who sin... because He is the righteous judge
  - **Our sin magnifies the Truth of God for His Glory...**
    - But... this does not EQUAL... Do sin so God is more glorified...
      - That is a satanic lie... that is a twisting of the truth of God...
  - **Illustration:**
    - When we look into a field of sheep... they all look so white...
    - But, when a fresh blanket of snow falls into the field
    - **And we are able to see the backdrop of pure white snow...**
      - Then we see the sheep in the foreground...
      - That sheep does not look as white as it once did...
        - ◆ And the dirtier the sheep...
        - ◆ The greater the difference...
  - **God is so amazing and Holy and Pure... Nothing can hinder His Glory...**
    - Even when His own people sin... God promises He will be glorified
  - **Once again... this is not to say that sin in itself is glorifying to God...**
    - Because it is not ... We are told to do certain things for the glory of God
    - And we are told some things dishonor God...
  - **Let's look big picture:**
    - John Piper: "'Since God loves his glory infinitely, and since God governs the world right down to the roll of the dice (according to Proverbs 16), therefore he is working in a way that, short-term, he is being dishonored in many ways; but in the big picture even the dishonoring is going to work for his total glory.'

## ❖ 8) Should We do Evil so Good Will Result

- Heaven forbid...
- If we **preach** the gospel right...
  - There will always be the possibility of Antinomian charges brought against us
  - Because... God is indeed gracious to sinners...
  - And He is more gracious to more and more sin...
- **But... this is a heresy... and it is taking advantage of God's grace...**
  - And let me remind you all... and myself...
  - God sees our secret thoughts...
  - And we can not trick God...
  - God will not be mocked!
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## ❖ Invitation

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