

Romans 3

vs 1,2 see 2:20. If the law judges those who have it and those without the law can keep the law that conscience shows then why have the law? Why would God give the Law to this group of people if it is just a detriment. They brag about having the law but it follows that they don't live it. Yet it is a wonderful advantage to have it. They don't have to guess or wonder about it like those who did not have it. It revealed God's will and plan. They possess the treasure.

vs 3 If you are a Jew without faith is it still an advantage to be a Jew? Does their lack of faith nullify God's commitment and promises to them? It was God's faithfulness that sent them into captivity. The answer is the next verse.

vs 4 Ps 51:4 David's confessional psalm is quoted - Against You, You only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight... God's faithfulness and mercy shine against man's failure, like the sun on the red rocks with a black storm cloud behind.

vs 5 Here is a contrasting of the attributes of God. His wrath is contrasted with his righteousness. Actually those two are dependent on the other for there to be holiness. What makes it complicated for the mind of man is to blend in mercy. Righteousness takes into account all the factors. He remembers our frame that we are dust. Yet He has revealed himself to us and given us an option other than 'dust dependency'. Later in this same letter Paul argues that God can be arbitrary if He wants because after all, He made us, and can do what He desires. That is true, but his attributes will never be violated or He would no longer be God. His attributes describe the perfect God.

vs 6 He argues from the grounds that scripture is true and God will judge the world, but God cannot be anything but righteous.

vs 7 Since God's holiness is even more beautiful when set against the contrast of my sin I am really glorifying God by my sin. A flawed logic on display. Because you don't hit me when I insult you displays your patience and love so I will insult you more.

vs 8 Paul takes it to the extreme that some are actually accusing them of - to show the limit. When in our weakness we sin, there is a contrast displaying God's righteousness. If we go on in that sin in intentional rebellion we are treading a line of Divine retribution.

Eternal truths: It is better to have the Word than not have it. God is faithful regardless of what we do - that may mean faithful to judge. Our sins contrast with God's glory, making His glory appear even brighter to us. Yet, they are still wrong - the contrast just makes what is already true more obvious. Evil deeds

can't produce good. God can work through the evil to bring good but evil itself produces death. 1:18 Galatians 6:8

vs 9 Paul claims there is the advantage of receiving God's word - but still the Jew is no better than the Gentile. All sin! We are not in two different boats. This was a major problem with the Jew - thinking he was better than the Gentile. Paul is saying the only difference is, we Jews had the awesome responsibility of being entrusted with His word.

vs 10-12 Psalm 14:1-3, 53:1-3, Ecclesiastes 7:20 This set of verses should stop any in their tracks who think they can be good enough for God. It is one thing to compare ourselves to men and another thing entirely to compare ourselves with the real standard, God. The contrast brings out God's awesomeness, but it also brings out our depravity and need for Him. Can someone seek God without God drawing them? Does anyone do good without God?

vs 13,14 Psalm 5:9, 140:3 Isaiah 6:5 lament, my mouth. Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks, and look at the garbage and slander that spring out like a polluted fountain. James says with the mouth we bless God and curse men that are made in his image. This just should not be. If anyone thinks he is good let him first take a closer look at what comes out of his mouth and then realize it started in his heart. Psalm 10:7

vs 15-17 Isaiah 59:7,8 Most would not say this is a description of them, but without God and his cleansing blood, this is each one of us. If we are not at peace with God we cannot be at peace with man.

vs 18 Psalm 36:1 The bottom line. Man in his inherited unrepentant sin nature does not fear the just wrath of a holy God. When that is the case there is no depravity which he will not stoop to. When culture does not restrain him because of some outside godly influence, he will sink to the bottom, destroying life in demonic style like the war criminals of Nazi Germany or Serbia today. Man's inhumanity to man is so disgustingly vile it will turn the strongest stomach, yet that is each of us without God's mercy.

vs 19 Yes the Jews have the advantage of possessing the Law, and the result of that should be kneeling in broken repentance before a holy God. We have no defense to utter, we can only plead for mercy! Is there anyone in the world that is not accountable for their actions?

vs 20 The Law is not the way to God – the way is Jesus! The Law just points out our desperate need for Jesus. "I need Thee oh I need Thee"