

Romans Chapter 3 – Lesson 1

Rom. 3:1-2 What advantage then hath the Jew? or what profit *is there* of circumcision? Much every way: chiefly, because that unto them were committed **the oracles of God**.

Oracles is a reference to the word of God - see Acts 7:38, Heb, 5:12, 1 Pet. 4:11. While the gentiles had only their conscience and nature to understand God, the Jews had his word. The word was committed to them. Every author (except perhaps Elihu - Job) was a Jew. That was a great advantage. But now, for almost 2,000 years, the church has had God's word. That is a great advantage!

The church now has the responsibility of keeping Gods word. Rev 3:8 I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept **my word**, and hast not denied **my name**.

- **To Preserve It** - 2Ti 1:13 Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus. 2 Cor. 2:17 For we are not **as many**, which corrupt the word of God: but as of sincerity, but as of God, in the sight of God **speak we in Christ**.
- **To Preach It** - 2 Tim. 4:2 **Preach the word**; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.
- **To Publish It** - Acts 12:24 But the word of God grew and multiplied. Acts 13:49 And the word of the Lord was published throughout all the region.

Rom 3:3-4 For **what if some did not believe** (*believe the oracles of God*)? shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect? **4** God forbid: yea, **let God be true, but every man a liar**; as it is written, That thou (God) mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged. (Ps. 51:4)

The saying goes, "I've made up my mind, don't confuse me with the facts". It doesn't matter what a man believes, the word of God is true. The unsaved man sits in judgment of God by refusing to accept personal responsibility to Him. The world uses terms like; misspoke, mistaken, their truth, etc. But God calls men liars and willingly ignorant (2 Pet. 3:5).

Rom 3:5-8 But if our unrighteousness commend the righteousness of God, what shall we say? **Is God unrighteous who taketh vengeance?** (I speak as a man) **6** God forbid: for then how shall God judge the world? **7** For if the truth of God hath more abounded through my lie unto his glory; **why yet am I also judged as a sinner?** **8** And not *rather*, (as we be slanderously reported, and as some affirm that we say,) Let us do evil, that good may come? whose damnation is just.

This shows the rebellious mind of the unbeliever. The thinking is that where sin abounds, grace did much more abound (Rom 5:20) so we ought to continue in sin to bring more glory to God. This goes back to Rom. 2:4-5 "...not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance." The fact is that God presently commendeth his love toward us (Rom. 5:8), but men are judged as sinners if they don't receive him (vs.5, Joh. 3:18). It is always better for a believer to demonstrate God's grace by **obedience** rather than **disobedience** (Tit. 2:11-12). Furthermore, neither Jesus or Paul desired the testimony from devils regarding Jesus (Mr.1:34, 5:7, Ac.16:17-18).

Rom 3:9 What then? **are we** (the Jews) better **than they** (the gentiles)? No, in no wise: for we have before **proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin**;

"For there is no respect of persons with God" Rom. 2:11, Col.3:25. There is no advantage of being a Jew today. Paul proved this in Chap. 2. In fact, a Jew is at a disadvantage today because of the veil on their heart, 2Cor.3:15. They are also referred to as enemies of the cross of Christ, Rom.11:28.

Rom 3:10-18 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one... (Ps. 14:1-4)

These verses are a clear indictment against mankind. This is one of many proofs that the bible was not written by man. Man always seeks to uplift himself and his condition. "99.9% of people are not bad people. They may make poor choices, but deep down they've got a good heart." – Joel Osteen.

Rom 3:19-20 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. **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 reveals everyone as a sinner. It can be used in witnessing to stop the mouths of those who are self-righteous. The law could never bring justification, but we are justified through Christ Jesus (Rom. 3:24,26, 5:1,21).