

Rooting Through Romans Pt 10 Romans 3:1-8, Let God Be True

A Sermon Series by Pastor Byron Chesney, Porchlight Baptist Church

Romans 3:1-8

- 1 What advantage then hath the Jew? or what profit *is there* of circumcision?
- 2 Much every way: chiefly, because that unto them were committed the oracles of God.
- 3 For what if some did not believe? 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 mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged.
- 5 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.

We left off last week by finishing chapter 2 where Paul had turned his sights on the Jews and called them out for their self-righteous living. We discussed in great length about the circumcision of the Jews and how it was a source of great pride to them. But, we saw that God wasn't interested in their outward circumcision but was more interested in them being circumcised in heart and spirit. And let's not forget circumcision was a sign of being separated from the world and unto God.

Here in Chapter 3, Paul continues making the case for God's righteousness and he opens it up by asking what advantage or profit circumcision was to the Jew?

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

Paul very bluntly asks a rhetorical question – what advantage does the Jew have just because he is a Jew? What good is circumcision if it is only physical outward circumcision? Just because the Jews have received the oracles of God (meaning God's word – the Pentateuch, the Prophets, the Psalms. What advantage does the Jew have for having all these things if they are not, as he said in the last verse of the last chapter: **Romans 2:29** *But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God.*

It's obvious, the Jew has no advantage if he is only a Jew outwardly and not inwardly. If he can keep Laws but his heart is far from God. If he can quote Scripture but not live by it.

Let me ask you:

- What advantage do you have been born in a Christian home?
- What good is Church attendance if you don't want to be here?
- What good is carrying a King James Bible if you don't read it?
- What good is calling yourself a Christian if you don't live like one?
- What good is pretending to be saved when you are lost?

I think the answer is obvious – there is no advantage and nothing good in any of that. A lost person that calls themselves a Christian is just as doomed as a lost person that does not call themselves a Christian.

Paul's case is the Jew and Gentile are in the same boat except the Jew will be held more accountable since they knew the truths of God.

3 For what if some did not believe? shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect?

Here Paul presents the question that the Jews were asking; what if some of the Jews did not believe. Not that they didn't believe God's Word because all the Jews believed God's Word but that if they didn't believe in Salvation through Christ. Would that 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 mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged.

Certainly not because the fact is, many of, or most of the Jews did not believe that Christ was the Messiah that was prophesied. Even though he fulfilled every prophecy given for the coming Messiah. It was because of the darkness of their own heart that they didn't believe. Not because God's word was of no effect.

That phrase "**God forbid**," Paul will use 10 times in the Book of Romans alone, and he will use it 4 other times; 1 – in his letter to the 1 Corinthians 1:16 and 3 – times in his letter to the Galatians; 2:17, 3:21, and 6:14. It means "**let it not be so**," or "**let no man think it possible**."

Then he follows it up with the title of our message this morning: **let God be true, but every man a liar**

God's Word will always remain true despite what man thinks or despite the unbelief of man.

- **John the Baptist** was sent before Christ to **bear witness unto the truth.** (John 5:33)
- **Jesus** speaking to his disciples and pointedly toward Thomas said this in **John 14:6 ...I am the way, the truth, and the life:...**
- **Jesus** standing before Pilate stated in **John 18:37... To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice.**

So, God will always be true and unbelieving man will always be a liar.

Jesus had to deal with this Jewish mindset his entire earthly ministry. Turn over to: **John 8:31-47**

- 31 Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, *If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;*
- 32 *And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.*
- 33 They answered him, *We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free?*
- 34 Jesus answered them, *Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.*
- 35 *And the servant abideth not in the house for ever: but the Son abideth ever.*
- 36 *If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.*
- 37 *I know that ye are Abraham's seed; but ye seek to kill me, because my word hath no place in you.*
- 38 *I speak that which I have seen with my Father: and ye do that which ye have seen with your father.*
- 39 They answered and said unto him, *Abraham is our father. Jesus saith unto them, If ye were Abraham's children, ye would do the works of Abraham.*
- 40 *But now ye seek to kill me, a man that hath told you the truth, which I have heard of God: this did not Abraham.*

41 **Ye do the deeds of your father. Then said they to him, We be not born of fornication; we have one Father, even God.**
 42 **Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me.**
 43 **Why do ye not understand my speech? even because ye cannot hear my word.**
 44 **Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.**
 45 **And because I tell you the truth, ye believe me not.**
 46 **Which of you convinceth me of sin? And if I say the truth, why do ye not believe me?**
 47 **He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God.**

Jesus, the Jews Promised Messiah was standing right in front of them teaching the truth, yet they rejected him.

In fact, if you read the rest of that chapter you will see they said that Jesus **had devil and they picked up stones to stone him to death** and would have if he had not disappeared from their presence.

Now turn back to our opening text in **Romans 3:4** and look at the last part of that verse: ... **as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged.**

This is a direct quote from the Psalms when David acknowledged he was a sinner and had transgressed before God, and he said this in **Psalms 51:4** *Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest.* David sinned against God when he committed adultery with Bathsheba and had her husband killed but that did not make God's promises to him to no effect. David sought forgiveness and found it. God remained true to His Word even though David was a liar. But David understood that he must be judged by God.

God's truths and promises will remain true throughout all eternity despite man's unbelief and sin and transgressions.

In our last 4-verses 5-8, Paul answers more objections of the Jews.

5 **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.**

Here Paul is answering the objections of the Jews that might say **"well, if our unrighteousness highlights God's righteousness, and if our sins bring glory to God because it showcases his forgiveness, why should we be condemned? Wouldn't that make God's vengeance unrighteous?"**

Again, Paul says those words **"God forbid!"** He will propose the same question again in **Romans 6:1-2** **What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? 2 God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?**

The Jews had a twisted way of looking at it. They wanted to argue that God would receive more glory if they just continued in sin because it would showcase his grace and forgiveness.

They want to make the case that they shouldn't be punished or judged for their sins since God gets glorified through them. So they ask, **"Is God being fair?" "Doesn't that make him unrighteous if he judges us?"**

The answer is, **God forbid! Or, of course not, don't even think such a thing!** God MUST punish sin. God MUST judge sin. How can he judge the world if he allows the Jews to continue in sin unjudged?

The truth is man wants to justify his sin even if it means making God look weak. Man is so sinful, so wicked, so vile, so disgusting that we would sell the very Christ for 30-pieces of silver just so we can continue living in sin.

Why do you think there are churches and pastors today that are light on sin? They pet sin these days. **Let's call it a "mistake" or a "boo-boo," but let's not call it a sin unto hell.** We sure wouldn't want to offend anyone or upset somebody.

Let's not tell the sodomite he is living in sin and has "vile affections," let's call it an **"alternative lifestyle,"** or **"same-sex attraction."** That sounds much better.

Let's not call people shacking up fornicators living in sin, let's call it **"co-habiting"** and **"room-mates."** Yeah, that sounds much nicer.

Let's not call people drunkards and winebibbers, let's label them with having an **"alcohol disease,"** or say that they are **"alcohol dependent."**

Whatever man needs to do to justify his sin, he will do it because man is wicked. Jesus said in **John 3:19-21**

19 **And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.**
 20 **For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved.**
 21 **But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.**

Nothing has changed. Men still prefer darkness over the light. In fact, according to FBI statistics most violent crimes happen at night:

Offense	At Night Percentage	During the Day Percentage
Murder & Negligent Manslaughter	65%	35%
Rape/Sexual Assault	59%	41%
Robbery	56%	44%
Aggravated Assault	54%	46%
Motor Vehicle Theft	51%	49%

But, getting back to our text in Romans – According to that last verse 8, there were some going around claiming that Paul was preaching that people should do evil so that good would come.

Paul's conclusion is that God's righteousness is just and fair. It doesn't matter if you are a Jew or a Gentile, God will not let sin go unpunished and His damnation of those who sin is just. He will expound more on it in the next verse which we will look at next Sunday, Lord willing.