

“Let God Be True”
Romans 3:1-4

Introduction:

1. Well - This Morning:
 - We Are Going To Begin A New Chapter:
 - In Our Series Through The Book Of Romans:
 - So - Please Turn There In Your Bibles With Me:
 - To Romans 3:
2. Where - The Lord Has Been Using:
 - The Apostle Paul - To Teach Us:
 - About The **Need**:
 - For The Gospel!
 - The **Desperate** Need:
 - **Everyone** Has For Christ!
 - Because - Whether A Person:
 - Is A Jew **Or** A Gentile:
 - **Apart** From Christ:
 - They Will Experience The Judgment & The Wrath Of God:
 - For Their Sins!
3. Now - All Through Chapter 2:
 - Paul Has Been Setting His Sights:
 - On The Jews - Because:
 - They Believed That All Of:
 - Privileges They Received From God:
 - Must Have Meant:
 - They Were On **Good Terms** With God!
 - But - In 2:28-29 - Paul Took A Great Big:
 - Verbal Axe - And Struck At The:
 - Very Root Of Their Pride - When He Said:
 - “For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: / 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!”
4. Now - Since Paul - Who Himself Was A Jew:
 - Had The Opportunity:
 - To Share The Gospel With Many Of His Fellow Jews:
 - He Knew How They Would Feel:
 - When They Were Confronted With This Reality!
 - **IE**: In Fact - The Jews He Spoke With - Were Probably Very Puzzled About What He Just Told Them! Kind Of Like The Puzzles You Might Be Doing - To Pass This Time Of “Social Isolation!” For Our Family, We Recently Ordered Some “Mystery Boxes” - That Came To Us In The Mail Just Last Week - Each With A Mystery To Solve!
 - And - As You Know - Every Puzzle Has Pieces & Every Mystery Has Clues - That Are Hard To Figure Out!
 - Where Does That Blue Puzzle Piece Fit In, When Half The Puzzle Is A Picture Of The Sky?
 - Well - The Jews Would Have Been **Puzzled!** The Jews Would Have Had **Questions!** The Jews Would Have Even **Wondered** About The Credibility Of God!
 - 5. Well - In The Verses We Come To This Morning:
 - Paul Will Answer Their Questions:
 - By Focusing On The Fact:
 - That God Is Always True:
 - And Is Always Faithful!
 - Let’s Look At:
 - 3:1-4 - Together - Beginning With This Question:
 - “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. / For what if some did not believe? shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect? / 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!”

- 6. The Jews Needed To Be Reassured:
 - That God Is Always True!
 - And That - God Is Always Faithful!
 - No Matter What Questions They Had!
 - And - No Matter What Puzzle They Faced!
 - And - Really - This Is What:
 - You & I Need To Be Reassured Of:
 - As Well! Don't You Think?
 - Even In A World That Is Changing By The Minute:
 - There Is One Constant!
 - God And His Truth!
 - I Want You To See With Me This Morning:
 - That God Is *Always* True!
 - And - Beginning With 3:1 - That:
 - God Is Always True:

1. To His Own People!

- In 3:1 - Paul Knew That The Jews Would Have A Couple Of Big Questions:
 - About The Credibility Of God!
 - Their First Question Would Be:
 - About The Pedigree Of The Jews!
 - 3:1a - "What Advantage Then Hath The Jew?"
 - The Word "Advantage" Here Means:
 - Something That Is Superior!
 - And The Jews Believed That To Be A Jew Was Something Good & Beneficial!
 - But - What Did Paul Just Get Through Saying?
 - In 2:28a & 29a - "For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly! But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly!"
 - If This Is True, Paul - They Might Ask:
 - Then - What Is The Point:
 - And - What Is The Privilege:
 - Of Being A Jew?
 - Especially When You Consider All Of The Trials & Tribulations Jews Have Gone Through:
 - Since The Beginning Of Their History?
 - Of Course - We Are Most Familiar:
 - With The Jewish Holocaust Of World War 2!
 - **IE:** I Remember Watching A Movie About A Group Of Jews Who Attempted To Hide From The Jews Throughout The War - And In One Stirring Scene - A Rabbi Made This Sobering Prayer To God - He Prayed:
 - "Merciful God . . . We Have No More Prayers, No More Tears; We Have Run Out Of Blood! Choose Another People. We Have Paid For Each Of Your Commandments; We Have Covered Every Stone And Field With Ashes. Sanctify Another Land. Choose Another People. Teach Them The Deeds And The Prophecies. Grand Us But One More Blessing: Take Back The Gift Of Our Holiness. Amen!"
 - Even Then - They Must Have Wondered:
 - What's The Point & What's The Privilege Of Being A Jew?
 - The Second Question Would Be:
 - About The Practices Of The Jews!
 - 3:1b - "Or - What Profit Is There Of Circumcision?"
 - Remember - The Jews Believed That Circumcision:
 - Was Their Passport & Their Ticket To Heaven!
 - But - What did Paul Just Get Through Saying?
 - Again - In 2:28b & 29b - "Neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh! And circumcision is that of the heart!"
 - So - If This Is True, Paul:
 - Then - What Is The Point:
 - And - What Is The Privilege:

- Of Circumcision?
 - This Would Have Been Very Puzzling To Them!
- But - It Didn't Have To Be!
 - Because - Circumcision Was *Not* Meant:
 - To *Save* Them - But To Be:
 - A *Sign* To Them!
 - **IE:** And Signs Can Still Be Very Significant! But A Sign Has No Power To Save In & Of Itself! I Remember, When I Was Growing Up In Colorado - Sometimes We Would Drive Into The Rocky Mountains! And Every So Often, I Saw A Bright Yellow Sign - With The Words: "In Case Of Flood Climb To Safety!" - But I Didn't Think Much About It!
 - It Was Only When We Were Driving Through A Canyon In A Rainstorm That I Realized Just How Significant The Sign Was! As The Rain Was Coming Down, The River Was Starting To Fill Up! Cars Were Starting To Slide Off The Road!
 - But The Sign Did Nothing To Save Them Or Us! We Would Have Had To Start Climbing!
- And So - Circumcision For The Jew:
 - Was *Not* The *Road* To Heaven:
 - It Was But A *Sign Along* The Road To Heaven!
 - And It Was A Sign That Was Meant To Lead Them To The One Who *Could* Save! Their Messiah! Jesus Christ Himself!
- But Still - For An Unbelieving Jew:
 - The Question Remained!
 - What's The Point & What's The Privilege Of Circumcision?
- Perhaps - You Have Had Similar Questions:
 - In Your Own Heart - At One Time Or Another?
 - Not As A Jew - But As A Christian!
 - What's The Point:
 - Of Being A Christian?
 - After All - Doesn't Paul Later Say In Romans 8:36 - "As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter!"
 - If This Is What The Life Of A Christian Is Like, Then What's The Point? Or:
 - What's The Point:
 - Of Worshiping & Praying & Witnessing:
 - When It Seems Like:
 - Your Prayers:
 - Receive No Answers!
 - Or - Your Witnessing:
 - Falls On Deaf Ears!
 - Sometimes It Is Very Easy:
 - To Become "Weary In Well Doing!"
 - And Start To Wonder:
 - What's The Point?
 - Well - You Need To Remember:
 - The Truth That Paul Is About To Come To!
 - God Is Always True:
 - To His People!
 - God Is Always Faithful!
 - Back Then & Even Today!
 - And So - As Paul Writes In Galatians 6:9 - "Let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not!"
 - God Is Always True:
 - To His People!
 - But We Can Also See That:
 - God Is Always True:

2. **To His Own Plan!**

- Which Is What We Find:
 - In 3:2 - "Much every way: chiefly, because that unto them were committed the oracles of God!"

- Paul Answers The Questions In 3:1:
 - With This Strongly Worded Answer:
 - “Much Every Way!” (3:2a)
- Here - He Reassures The Jews That:
 - Both Their People & Their Practices:
 - **Do** Still Matter To God:
 - Just - **Not** In They Way That They Think!
 - God - By His Grace:
 - **Chose** Them In Order To **Use** Them:
 - To Accomplish His Eternal Plan!
- And To Be Part Of God’s Plan:
 - **Was & Still Is:**
 - A Privilege For The People Of God!
 - Because - His Plan Is & Has Always Been:
- An Excellent Plan!
 - But - His Plan Is Also:
- An Exclusive Plan!
 - It Was To & Through The Jews:
 - That He “Committed” And Entrusted:
 - The Treasure Of His Own Word!
 - 3:2b - “Unto them were committed the oracles of God!”
 - This Is What Set The Jewish People Apart:
 - From Everyone Else In The World!
 - This Is How The Jewish People Were Blessed!
 - **God Gave Them His Word!**
 - All Of The Precepts:
 - In His Word!
 - The Treasure Of His Law - To Teach Them About His Nature As Well As Their Own!
 - All Of The Pronouncements:
 - In His Word!
 - His Gracious Warnings - To “Refuse The Evil & Choose The Good!” (Isaiah 7:15-16)
 - All Of The Promises:
 - In His Word!
 - Promises Of Grace - To Draw Them With Cords & Bands Of Love!
 - All Of The Prophecies:
 - In His Word!
 - Prophecies That Pointed Them To Jesus Christ - Who Alone Is “The Way, The Truth, And The Life!”
 - What A Privilege!
 - And God Did Not Intend For Them To:
 - Turn Their Privilege:
 - Into Pride - But To Respond:
 - With Faith:
 - In Those Promises!
 - With Obedience:
 - To Those Precepts!
 - And - With Honor:
 - To His Plan!
 - God Entrusted The Jews:
 - With The Treasure Of His Word!
 - **IE:** Much Like My Brother - Entrusted Me With A Copy Of His Will - Before He And His Family Went To The Mission Field! To Keep It Safe!
 - But - What Eventually Happened?
 - At One Point In Their History:
 - The Written Words Of God Became So Scarce, That Even The Kings Of Judah Did Not Know What His Law Said! Until - When The Young King Josiah Started Fixing Up The

Temple - Hilkiah, The High Priest Said - "I have found the book of the law in the house of the LORD!"

- Even Though The Jewish People:
 - At This Point In Their History:
 - Failed In Their Responsibility To Preserve The Word God Entrusted To Them:
 - Yet - God Himself Preserved It, Didn't He?
 - Because God Is Always Faithful & True:
 - To His Plan!
- We Too Have Been Given The Treasure Of God's Word!
 - Not Just The Old Testament:
 - But The New! Not Just The Law:
 - But The Gospel!
 - And Why Have We Been Blessed With:
 - And Entrusted With:
 - God's Word?
 - So That We Too Might Treasure It, Live According To It, And Share It!
 - And As We Do - We Need To Remember:
 - That God Remains Always True:
 - To His Plan!
 - And - Especially His Plan For His Word!
 - Even As He Told Isaiah:
 - In Isaiah 55:11 - "So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it!"
 - God Is Always True:
 - To His People & To His Plan!
 - But We Can Also See That:
 - He Is Also True:

3. ***To His Own Promises!***

- Which Is What We Find In:
 - 3:3 - When Paul Shows The Difference Between The Faithfulness Of God & The Faithlessness Of His People:
 - "For what if some did not believe? shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect?"
 - At The Beginning Of This Verse:
 - Paul Asks His Own Question About:
 - The Carelessness With God's Word:
 - Which Is What His People Were Guilty Of!
 - Though They Were Given:
 - His God's Words! And:
 - Though They Were Expected:
 - To Believe In & Follow After:
 - His Words!
 - Yet - 3:3a - "Some Did Not Believe!"
 - **IE:** Last Week - Congress Passed A Stimulus Bill Of Some \$2 Trillion! That's A Big Number! And Most Of You Will Be Getting A Small Piece Of That Pie! Have You Thought About What You Are Going To Do With That Money? Let's Say Uncle Sam Came To You Himself, And Gave It To You All In Cash! The First Place I Would Go Is To The Bank - To Deposit It! After All - Don't Want It Stolen! Don't Want To Lose It! How Would You Feel If You Gave It To The Teller, And They Just Threw It In A Big Pile With Everyone Else's Stimulus Money! Not Very Confident!
 - In A Similar Way - This Is What Some Of The Jews Did With The Great Treasure Of God's Word!
 - They Were Supposed To Be The Custodians Of His Word, But They Just Threw It Away!
 - Now - Just Because Some - Or Even Most - Of The Jews Treated God's Word This Way - Paul Asks:
 - Does This Change:
 - The Commitment To God's Word:

- By God Himself?
 - 3:3b - "Shall their unbelief (faithlessness) make the faith (faithfulness) of God without effect?"
 - The Answer Is Clearly - No!
 - Which He Emphatically States In 3:4a - "God Forbid!"
- Because - Your Faithfulness & My Faithfulness:
 - Has No Bearing On:
 - The Faithfulness Of God!
 - In 2 Timothy 2:13 - Paul Even Says This:
 - "If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself!"
- You See - It Is God:
 - Who Is Always True & Is Always Faithful:
 - To His Word & To His Promises!
 - And - Don't We Need This Truth:
 - Now - More Than Ever?
 - Even Though There Are Times In Your Life:
 - That You May Doubt:
 - "His Tender Mercies!"
 - Yet - He Ever Remains:
 - Faithful! That Is Why We Are Told In Hebrews 10:23 - "Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; for he is faithful that promised!"
- God Is True:
 - To The Promise Of His Blessings!
 - Which Peter Calls - "Exceeding Great And Precious Promises!" (2 Peter 1:4)
 - Like His Promise:
 - To Save You!
 - Hebrews 7:25 - "Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them!"
 - Are You Trusting In This Promise Today?
 - You Can! Admit & Confess To God That You Are A Sinner! Believe In The Lord Jesus Christ As The Only One Who Can Save You From Your Sin! Through His Life, Death & Resurrection! Then - This Promise - And More - Are Yours!
 - Like His Promise:
 - To Sanctify You!
 - 1 John 3:2 - "Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is!"
 - "We Shall Be Like Him!"
 - That's A Promise!
 - Like His Promise:
 - To Satisfy You!
 - Psalm 103:2-5 - "Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: / Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; / Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies; / Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's!"
- God Is Always True:
 - To The Promise Of His Blessings!
 - But - As We See In 3:4 - God Is Also True:
 - To The Promise Of His Judgment!
 - And This Proves That He Will Always Be True:

4. *To His Own Person!*

- As Paul Adds:
 - 3:4a - "Yea, let God be true, but every man a liar!"
 - Here - Paul Is Making:
- A Strong Point!
 - When He Says - "Let God Be True!"
 - He Is Making A Declaration & A Pronouncement:
 - Of God & His Nature!

- **IE:** In Ancient Greece - Mathematicians Would Use The Same Words To Declare The Truth About A Math Problem! Like - “Let 2+2 Be 4!”
- And In The Same Way:
 - Paul Pronounces That:
 - God Himself Is True!
 - Even Though Every Man May Be A Liar - It Doesn’t Change The Fact That:
 - God Is True!
 - Isn’t This What We Are Told:
 - In Deuteronomy 32:4 - “He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he!”
 - But - Can’t Paul’s Point Here:
 - Also Be Turned Into:
- A Strong Plea!
 - A Plea & A Prayer:
 - For God:
 - To Keep Revealing His Truth! And:
 - For Man:
 - To Keep Responding To His Truth!
 - **“Let God Be True!”**
 - This Kind Of Prayer:
 - Is Not Unprecedented In Scripture!
 - Even Jesus Prayed To His Father:
 - In John 12:28 - “Father, Glorify Thy Name!”
 - And How Did His Father Respond?
 - “Then came there a voice from heaven, saying, I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again!”
 - Even So - When You Plea To God:
 - In Your Prayers:
 - For Him To Be Faithful & True:
 - To His Own Nature:
 - You Can Be Certain Of His Answer!
 - OH GOD - BE TRUE!
 - OH GOD - SHOW YOURSELF:
 - TO BE THE TRUE & FAITHFUL ONE!
 - To Your People!
 - To My Family!
 - To This World!
 - And How Will God Answer?
 - I Am True! I Have Been True! And I Will Be True!
 - Because God Is Always True:
 - To His Own Person!
 - But - That Also Includes:
- A Strong Purity!
 - Because In The Rest Of 3:4 - Paul Uses:
 - Part Of King David’s Prayer Of Confession:
 - From Psalm 51:4 - To Highlight:
 - The Truth & Faithfulness Of God! And That:
 - God Is Always Correct:
 - When He Adheres To:
 - His Own Warnings!
 - 3:4 - “As it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings!” And How:
 - God Is Always Clear:
 - When he Is Assessed By:
 - His Own Word!
 - 3:4 - “And mightest overcome when thou art judged!”
 - David Knew That:
 - Because Of The True & Faithful Nature:

- Of God - He Deserved:
 - God's Judgment For His Sin!
 - And Rightfully So!
- But - He Took Comfort:
 - In The Fact That:
 - God "Cannot Deny Himself!"
- God Is Not Fickle!
 - God Is Not Arbitrary!
 - God Is Not Unstable!
 - No - God Is Unchangeable!
 - In All Of His Wonder, In All Of His Will, And In All Of His Words!

Conclusion:

1. And So - ***God Is Always True!***
 - In Fact - Isn't This How Jesus Himself:
 - Is Described In The Book Of Revelation?
 - In Revelation 19:11 - When John Saw - "Heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True!"
2. Won't You Remember This Truth Today?
 - Won't You Rely Upon It?
 - And Even Through All Of The Ups & Downs:
 - Of Everything Going On In The World Today:
 - Won't You Rest In The Truth:
 - That God Is Always True!
3. God Is Always True - To His People!
 - Are You One Of His People Today?
 - Have You Turned To & Trusted In Jesus:
 - To Save You From Your Sin?
 - God Is Always True - To His Plan!
 - To Use His Word In This World!
 - Do You Avail Yourself To God's Word?
 - Is It Your Treasure?
 - Can You Say With Job - "Neither have I gone back from the commandment of his lips; I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food!" (Job 23:12)
 - God Is Always True - To His Promises!
 - Are You Looking For:
 - And Leaning On:
 - The Promises God Has Given You:
 - In His Word?
 - Psalm 37:5 - "Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass!"
 - God Is Always True - To His Person!
 - "Let God Be True, But Every Man A Liar!"
 - Because - God Is ***Always*** True!

* Are You Trusting In The Truth Of God Today?

Grace Baptist Church
Stephen Elmer, Pastor
4245 North 200 West
Greenfield, Indiana 46140
317-326-2362
www.sermonaudio.com/wordofgrace
www.growatgrace.org
pastor-elmer@hotmail.com