

Journey Through Romans

ROMANS 3:1-18

All Have Sinned

Question 1:

(Romans 3:1 KJV) "What advantage then hath the Jew? or what profit is there of circumcision?"

This question because Paul had just said:

(Romans 2:26-29 KJV) "Therefore if the uncircumcision keep the righteousness of the law, shall not his uncircumcision be counted for circumcision? And shall not uncircumcision which is by nature, if it fulfil the law, judge thee, who by the letter and circumcision dost transgress the law? 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."

Answer 1:

(Romans 3:2 KJV) "Much every way: chiefly, because that unto them were committed the oracles of God."

Oracles = logion: in this verse means "all the written utterances of God through OT writers" (Vine's)

(2 Timothy 3:16 KJV) "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:"

(Matthew 4:4 KJV) "But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."

Question 2:

(Romans 3:3 KJV) "For what if some did not believe? shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect?"

God had made certain promises to Israel. Shall the unbelief of some Jews make God be unfaithful to Word?

“I have to say, with Paul, ‘What if some did not believe?’ It is no new thing; for there have always been some who have rejected the revelation of God. What then? You and I had better go on believing, and testing for ourselves, and proving the faithfulness of God, and living upon Christ our Lord, even though we see another set of doubters, and another, and yet another ad infinitum. The gospel is no failure, as many of us know.”
(Spurgeon)

(Romans 11:26 KJV) "And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob:"

(Romans 9:6 KJV) "Not as though the word of God hath taken none effect. For they are not all Israel, which are of Israel:"

It takes more than a physical birth; it takes a spiritual birth to be a part of God’s true Israel.

Answer 2:

(Romans 3:4 KJV) "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." (Ps 51:4)

Man can argue all he wants that the unfaithfulness of man makes God unfaithful to His promises; but “let God be true, but every man a liar.”

Question 3:

(Romans 3:5 KJV) "But if our unrighteousness commend the righteousness of God, what shall we say? Is God unrighteous who taketh vengeance? (I speak as a man)"

Answer 3:

(Romans 3:6 KJV) "God forbid: for then how shall God judge the world?"

God is just. He has to be to judge the world. The Jews believed that God would judge the world, so they could not believe that He was in some way unrighteous or unjust.

Questions 4:

(Romans 3:7 KJV) "For if the truth of God hath more abounded through my lie unto his glory; why yet am I also judged as a sinner?" (Romans 3:8 a KJV) "And not rather, (as we be slanderously reported, and as some affirm that we say,) Let us do evil, that good may come?"

If my sin makes God’s truth abound which brings glory to Him, then my sin is helping God out. My sin is making God look good! Why does He judge me?

“Let us do evil, that good may come”

This is the accusation that is brought against Christians: "You teach that a person can just get saved and live however they want too! You are antinomian."

Illus: Witnessing to teenager.

Answer 4:

"...whose damnation is just." (Romans 3:8b KJV)

Arguments like those we have just read are straw men. They are excuses to cover up an evil heart of unbelief.

(John 3:18-21 KJV) "He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God."

Question 5:

(Romans 3:9a KJV) "What then? are we better than they?"

The Jews believed that they were better than the Gentiles. Paul says, "Sure, you have advantages, primarily that God committed His word to the Jews." (vs 2)

But in the end, the Jews are no better than the Gentiles because all are sinners: The fact that the Jew has the law doesn't matter because he has broken it. All have sinned.

Answer 5:

"(Romans 3:9b KJV) No, in no wise: for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin;"

Verses 10 – 18 are all supporting evidence for "all are under sin."

Note: Quotes in Romans from the Old Testament are worded differently than the same quotes found in our OT. They mean the same thing, but why the difference in wording?

Most quotes of OT Scripture in New Testament comes from the Septuagint, the Greek translation of the OT. There is a different wording in the Septuagint than in the Masoretic Hebrew text that our Bibles are translated from.

Why not use the Hebrew? Well, Paul used the OT that people used in his day. People read Greek and used a Greek OT. He is writing to the Romans. He is using the Greek OT.

The Holy Spirit quoted from it, so the quotes here are correct. We cannot argue with God. Romans is not a translation effort. Romans is an evangelistic effort.

1. The Witness of David: (Romans 4:6-8)

(Romans 3:10 KJV) "As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:"

(Romans 3:11 KJV) "There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God."

(Romans 3:12 KJV) "They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one." (Psalm 14:1-3; 53:1-3 *passages are almost identical: repeated twice for emphasis*)

(Romans 3:13 KJV) "Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; (Psalm 5:9) the poison of asps is under their lips:" (Psalm 140:3)

(Romans 3:14 KJV) "Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness:" (Psalm 10:7)

2. The Witness of Solomon:

(Romans 3:15 KJV) "Their feet are swift to shed blood:"

(Romans 3:16 KJV) "Destruction and misery are in their ways:"

(Romans 3:17 KJV) "And the way of peace have they not known:" (Proverbs 1:16)

3. David Again:

(Romans 3:18 KJV) "There is no fear of God before their eyes." (Psalm 36:1)