

Romans

4. All men are condemned (3:1-20)

a. This is not a failure of on God's part. (3:1-8)

“¹ Then what advantage has the Jew? Or what is the benefit of circumcision? ² Great in every respect. First of all, that they were entrusted with the oracles of God.

Is there any value in religion? Yes, religious people have received a revelation of how to please God.

³ What then? If some did not believe, their unbelief will not nullify the faithfulness of God, will it? ⁴ May it never be! Rather, let God be found true, though every man {be found} a liar, as it is written, “*That Thou mightest be justified in Thy words, and mightest prevail when Thou art judged.*”

But you just said that the religious were not righteous. So doesn't this suggest that God's revelation failed? Not at all. Even if every person failed this does not mean that God failed. In the end it will be shown that He knew what He was doing.

⁵ But if our unrighteousness demonstrates the righteousness of God, what shall we say? The God who inflicts wrath is not unrighteous, is He? (I am speaking in human terms.) ⁶ May it never be! For otherwise how will God judge the world?

OK now you are saying that our unrighteousness is a part of God's righteous plan. But if that is true, God cannot be just in judging? No, you have it wrong. You agree that God will judge the whole world. What I am saying is that the expanse and extent of that judgment is universal. No one escapes.

⁷ But if through my lie the truth of God abounded to His glory, why am I also still being judged as a sinner? ⁸ And why not {say} (as we are slanderously reported and as some affirm that we say), “Let us do evil that good may come”? Their condemnation is just.

If this is true, why don't we just give in to sin so that God can make His point? This is what some understand me to say or at least imply but they have really missed it.

b. The Prophets saw this to be true. (3:9-18)

⁹ What then? Are we better than they? Not at all; for we have already charged that both Jews and Greeks are all under sin; ¹⁰ as it is written, “*There is none righteous, not even one; ¹¹ There is none who understands, There is none who seeks for God; ¹² All have turned aside, together they have become useless; There is none who does good, There is not even one. ¹³ Their throat is an open grave, With their tongues they keep deceiving, The poison of asps is under their lips; ¹⁴ Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness; ¹⁵ Their feet are swift to shed blood, ¹⁶ Destruction and misery are in their paths, ¹⁷ And the path of peace have they not known. ¹⁸ There is no fear of God before their eyes.*”

Are religious people better than others? No! The Scriptures make it clear that everyone is guilty, unrighteous, and spiritually rebellious.

c. The Law was given to show it to be true. (3:19-20)

19 Now we know that whatever the Law says, it speaks to those who are under the Law, that every mouth may be closed, and all the world may become accountable to God; 20 because by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight; for through the Law {comes} the knowledge of sin.”

Most of us knows that there is a problem in the world what we miss is that the problem is not the political systems, nor is it the culture or biology, it is our hearts – every one of our hearts. Paul knew this and his helping us acknowledge this point is the first step in his recovery program.

“Give us wretched sinners and not just ordinary ones. It is the wretched sinners that get better because they know they must.” Haddon Robinson

Romans 7:9-10

“7 What shall we say then? Is the Law sin? May it never be! On the contrary, I would not have come to know sin except through the Law; for I would not have known about coveting if the Law had not said, “You shall not covet.”. . . 9 And I was once alive apart from the Law; but when the commandment came, sin became alive, and I died; 10 and this commandment, which was to result in life, proved to result in death for me; 11 for sin, taking opportunity through the commandment, deceived me, and through it killed me. . . 13 Therefore did that which is good become a cause of death for me? May it never be! Rather it was

sin, in order that it might be shown to be sin by effecting my death through that which is good, that through the commandment sin might become utterly sinful.”

The Point
Close your mouth!

Those who have no regard for religion and morality
are without excuse!

Those who look righteous but are not a part of the true faith
are without excuse!

Those who are religiously orthodox
are without excuse!

Those who think God can't do this
are without excuse!

***The Gospel message is structured around
three covenants***

The covenant with Abram – Promise

The covenant with Moses – Pain

The covenant with Christ – Peace

Paul's steps to life in Romans.

1. **Radical despair**, and insecurity in “self before God.”
2. **Radical grace** in the cross through faith in Jesus.
3. **Radical bonding** to Jesus as master.
4. **Radical ministry** to others in the power of the Spirit.

The essence of Romans 1-3

“that every mouth may be closed” 3:19

- **In 1:18 he tells us that** “the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness.”
- **He then proceeds to show how no one can deny that verdict.**
 - **The raw person**
 - **The respectable person**
 - **The religious person**

Hosea 5:15

“I will go away and return to My place until they acknowledge their guilt and seek My face; in their affliction they will earnestly seek Me.”

THE LAW OF MOSES

Its relationship to Israel

- 1. It was given to Israel only.**
- 2. It was given to Israel as a unit.**
- 3. It was elaborated by Christ.**

4. It was to be in effect over a definite period of time.
5. It was related to the “law of works.”

Ezekiel 18:9

“Keep my decrees and laws, for the man who obeys them will live by them. I am the Lord.”

Its relationship to the Gospel

1. It reveals God’s holy character.
2. It reveals man’s sinfulness.
3. It is a minister of death and bondage.
4. It prepares men for the gospel.
5. It foreshadowed things to come.
6. It was fulfilled by Christ.
7. It was an appeal to the flesh.

The religion trap

1. We relate to “the system” better than we relate to God.
2. We find security in knowing about God rather than knowing God.
3. We have pride in knowing the truth rather than doing it.
4. We control others with “the system.”

The nature of religious toleration and pluralism in light of the exclusiveness of the Christian Gospel.

1. **Legal toleration** commits us always to protect people’s political rights to follow any religion or no religion at all.
2. **Social toleration** advocates charity toward people who think and believe differently from the way we do.
3. **Intellectual toleration** is the relativistic notion that one system of belief is as true as any other.

NOTE: Intellectual toleration is not necessarily demanded by legal and social toleration.

- a. Pluralism does not demand that we all believe and behave the same way nor does it demand that we believe that any belief system is as good or true as another.
- b. Pluralism does demand that we practice legal and social toleration.

- c. Evangelicals must embrace legal and social toleration without intellectual toleration.
- d. They must also resist the tendency of their critics to tie intellectual intolerance to legal and social intolerance.

Paul's understanding of justification through keeping the Law.

2:13

“doers of the Law will be justified”

3:20

“no one will be justified by the works of the Law”

3:9-10

“There is none righteous, no not one”

Romans 7:9-10

“And I was once alive apart from the Law; but when the commandment came, sin

became alive, and I died; and this commandment, which was to result in life, proved to result in death for me;”

Romans 7:14

“For we know that the Law is spiritual; but I am of flesh, sold unto bondage to sin.”