

**The Epistle to the Romans  
(Special English Edition)**

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**The Faithfulness of God**

**Reading assignment: Romans 3**

**Introduction**

Remember that the key word in Romans is **RIGHTEOUSNESS**. In Romans 1:17, we considered: **GOD REVEALED RIGHTEOUSNESS** in the Gospel of Christ. Paul said he was not ashamed of this Gospel. Beginning at Romans 1:18 through Romans 2:29 we saw that **GOD REQUIRED RIGHTEOUSNESS**. God required righteousness of the Gentiles. They denied natural revelation (which is everything God created), changed the truth of God and practiced sinful and degrading behavior. God required righteousness of the self-righteous Gentiles who considered themselves honorable. God required righteousness of the Jews. They had the knowledge of the law but they were guilty because they did not keep it. They turned away from God and performed empty ceremonies without faith in God.

In this lesson, Romans 3:1-20, we shall conclude our studies on the section of our outline, **CONDEMNATION-GOD REQUIRED RIGHTEOUSNESS**. We shall see a further condemnation of the Jews. God's condemnation of the whole world follows this. In this way God shows us that all of us are guilty and in need of God's righteousness.

**Importance of this Lesson**

- ❑ Before he writes about the grace of God, Paul takes time to show how every human being must be saved.
- ❑ It is of great importance that we see clearly that living a good life, going to church and sincerely doing good works are not enough – for by such “...shall no flesh be justified in his sight...” (Romans 3:20).

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**THE LESSON**

- Outline:**
- A. Romans 3:1-8 is a continuation of the condemnation of the Jews. The Jews raised objections concerning:
    - 1. The Promises of God – Romans 3:2
    - 2. The Faithfulness of God – Romans 3:3
    - 3. The Righteousness of God – Romans 3:5-7
  - B. Romans 3:9-20 is God's Condemnation of the whole world.

**I. ROMANS 3:1 – THE JEWS ASKED QUESTIONS AND RAISED OBJECTIONS**

After Paul accused them, especially in Romans 2:25-26, it was perfectly natural for the Jews to ask certain questions.

- A. If God can accept the Gentiles when they did not have the law (Romans 2:14), what good is our circumcision?
- B. If God can accept uncircumcised Gentiles who keep the law (Romans 2:25-26), what advantages do we have as Jews? It seems that Paul taught that there was difference between Jews and Gentiles! They thought they were better because they were the chosen people of God (Deuteronomy 7:6)!

## II. ROMANS 3:2 – PAUL’S REPLY TO THE FIRST OBJECTION CONCERNING THE PROMISES OF GOD

- A. *Much every way...* – Paul may have had many advantages in mind but he names only one.
  - 1. *Chiefly* – first and of greatest importance: *because that unto them were committed the oracles of God.*
  - 2. God gave all of the Old Testament prophesies and promises to Israel! This was a great privilege! It was a great advantage! Keep in mind that we are in debt to Israel for the whole Bible.
- B. Paul talks further about Israel’s advantages in Romans 9:4-5.
- C. Remember that the promises to Israel are yet to be fulfilled to the Jews. These promises are not to the church. Israel was set aside, not destroyed.  
Read Romans 11:1, 2 and 25.

## III. ROMANS 3:3-4 – THE SECOND QUESTION AND OBJECTION RELATING TO THE FAITHFULNESS OF GOD

- A. Did Israel’s unbelief *...make the faith of God without effect?*
  - 1. *The faith of God* should read “the faithfulness of God.”
  - 2. The Jews’ second question and objection: If the result of all their privileges and advantages was not the fulfillment of God’s purposes, then had God failed?”
- B. Paul’s reply, *God forbid* – this is an expression Paul often uses (Romans 3:6; 6:2; 11:1). It is a strong denial which means, “away with such an idea.”
- C. *...let God be true, but every man a liar...* Actually, “let God be found true, etc.” Every person who does not believe, now or in the past, God will show them as liars when He fulfills His promises! It is impossible for God to lie. Read Hebrews 6:18; Titus 1:2.
- D. *...as it is written...* – Romans 3:4 is a quotation from Psalm 51:4. Compare David’s sin and God’s faithfulness to forgive and to fulfill His promises to David.

## IV. ROMANS 3:5-8 – THE THIRD QUESTION AND OBJECTION RAISED – CONCERNING THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD

- A. Romans 3:5 – This was probably the greatest criticism Paul faced in preaching the grace of God. They said, If our sin made the grace of God great, then is God unrighteous when He judges and punishes us for our sins?
- B. Romans 3:5 – *... I speak as a man.* That is, Paul spoke from the human viewpoint.
- C. Those who oppose preachers who emphasize the grace of God in their messages always say that such preaching means that it is fine for a person to sin.
- D. Romans 3:6 – *God forbid...* Away with such an idea! If this were true of all sin, how could God judge the world? Judgment is certain for all (Romans 14:12; Acts 17:31).
  - ◆ *When a person sins and rejects God’s promises and faithfulness it in no way affects the nature of God.*
- E. Romans 3:7-8 – *For if the truth of God hath more abounded through my lie unto his glory, why yet am I also judged as a sinner?*
  - 1. *...my lie* – my unfaithfulness as a Jew.
  - 2. *...the truth of God hath more abounded...* – God never goes back on His promises. Israel’s failure made the truth of God’s faithfulness and righteousness greater.
  - 3. *...why yet am I also judged as a sinner?* – In other words, if God’s grace is made greater because He forgives my sin, it is better for me to continue to sin so I can show how great the grace of God really is.
  - 4. *...as we be slanderously reported...* – Paul was accused by some people of preaching that it was OK to sin. *Let us do evil, that good may come....*
    - ◆ *Here is the old idea that “the end justifies the means.” Here, as always, is the accusation of legalists against the teaching of pure grace.*
- E. *...whose damnation is just* – Paul always faithfully warned of sure judgment for the sinner.

## V. THE FINAL SECTION OF CONDEMNATION – *GOD REQUIRED RIGHTEOUSNESS*

### In Romans 3:9-20, we see The Whole World as Guilty

#### A A BRIEF OUTLINE OF THIS SECTION:

1. The **CONDITION** of man in the eyes of God – Romans 3:9-12
2. The **CONDUCT** of Man apart from God – Romans 3:13-15
3. The **CONSEQUENCES** to man for rejecting God – Romans 3:16-18
4. The **CONCLUSION** of God about man – Romans 3:19-20

#### B. The **CONDITION** of man in the eyes of God (Romans 3:9-12).

Paul lists several things to describe man's sinful nature.

1. All under sin – found guilty and under the condemnation of the law. For the word “all”, refer to Galatians 3:22 and Romans 11:32.
2. *There is none righteous* (Romans 3:10). Man is without God's righteousness. Not one person since Adam has been righteous. Many proud sinners think of themselves as righteous (Matthew 6:5; Luke 18:9-11). Others try to “establish their own righteousness” (Romans 10:3).
3. *There is none that understandeth* (Romans 3:11). That is, no one is born with an understanding of spiritual things. Note John 3:3; 1 Corinthians 2:9,14; Ephesians 4:18.
4. *None that seeketh after God* (Romans 3:11). Adam fled from God. Heathens worship demons, not God (1 Corinthians 10:20). God is the seeker (Luke 19:10). Sinners run from God.
5. *They are all gone out of the way* (Romans 3:12). That is “gone aside” (Psalm 14:3), or “gone back” (Psalm 53:3). The idea is one of complete separation from God. See also Isaiah 53:6 and Proverbs 14:12.
6. *They are together become unprofitable* (Romans 3:12). They are like spoiled or rotten fruit. Psalm 14:3 says “filthy.”
7. *There is none that doeth good* (Romans 3:12). An unclean thing can never produce that which is clean (Job 14:4) when it is measured, of course, by the standard of the righteousness of God.

#### C. The **CONDUCT** of Man Apart from God (Romans 3:13-15) – Paul lists five things that are true of the unsaved.

1. *Their throat* – It is like an open grave that gives off the smell of death and decay. See Psalm 5:9.
2. *Their tongues* have used deceit – Literally “have been using deceit” from the beginning. Remember, “The heart is deceitful above all things...” (Jeremiah 17:9). If sin were not deceitful it would never be delightful.
3. *The poison of asps is under their lips* (Romans 3:13). Here we see the power of a tongue that is corrupt and abusive. A tongue that spoils the reputation of other people by spreading lies (James 3:6).
4. *Whose mouth is full of cursing...* (Romans 3:14). All we have to do to understand this is to simply listen to the normal conversation of a group of sinners today.
5. *Whose feet are swift to shed blood* (Romans 3:15). Murder, attack, and injury fill the earth today.

#### D. The **CONSEQUENCES** to Man for Rejecting God (Romans 3:16-18).

Paul lists three things:

1. *Destruction and misery are in their ways* (Romans 3:16). Sin destroys many things and results in suffering.
2. *The way of peace have they not known* (Romans 3:17).  
Read Isaiah 57:20,21. The wicked never have perfect peace. Real peace is ours through faith and prayer. Read Romans 5:1 and Philippians 4:6-7. Only Christ can give perfect peace (John 14:27).
3. *There is no fear of God...* (Romans 3:18). The idea of fear here means “respectful admiration.” Nothing is more needed in this world today than a respect for God and His Word.

E. God's CONCLUSION about man (ROMANS 3:19-20).

1. *That every mouth may be stopped* (Romans 3:19). Here we see one of the most important reasons for the giving of the Law. It was not given to make men righteous but to show man's unrighteousness.  
"Every mouth might be stopped" means that no person can say he is righteous before the law. No person can say a word to right himself with God.
2. *And all the world may become guilty before God* (Romans 3:19). No one can deny the guilt. All of us need a Savior.
3. Romans 3:20. *Therefore* – here is Paul's conclusion about everything he has written thus far. The conclusion is that good works, self-righteous deeds, can never make a person righteous in the sight of a Holy God. Why? *For by the law is the knowledge of sin*. The law exposed the need. It doesn't provide the cure.

**THE EPISTLE TO THE ROMANS**  
**EXAM – LESSON 7**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

1. According to Paul what is required for salvation? (Value 4 points)
  - a. Good works
  - b. Righteousness
  - c. Love
2. The Jews raised objections to the fact that they were lost in sin because they: (Value 4 points)
  - a. thought they were religious.
  - b. thought they obeyed the law.
  - c. brought sacrifices in the temple.
3. The phrase “God forbid” that Paul often used means: (Value 4 points)
  - a. God accepts the idea.
  - b. away with such an idea.
  - c. God forbids it in the 10 commandments.
4. The answer of Paul to the question, “If our sin magnifies the grace of God, is God not unrighteous to judge us?” was: (Value 4 points)
  - a. you are right.
  - b. God’s grace is greater than any sin.
  - c. away with such an idea.
5. The theme of Romans 3:9-20 is that: (Value 4 points)
  - a. God loves man.
  - b. the whole world is guilty.
  - c. God will judge man in the end.
6. In Romans 3:13-15, in talking about man’s conduct apart from God, Paul says they: (Open Bible) (Value 4 points)
  - a. speak the truth in love.
  - b. curse continually.
  - c. do not obey God.
7. The meaning of “no fear of God” in Romans 3:18 is that they: (Value 4 points)
  - a. are not afraid of God.
  - b. have no reverence and respect for God.
  - c. do not care about the Word of God.
8. A person gains real peace in his heart by: (Value 4 points)
  - a. helping as many people as possible.
  - b. giving to the church.
  - c. faith in Jesus Christ as Savior.

9. God gave the law so that: (Value 4 points)
- He would have a basis for judging man.
  - man's unrighteousness would be shown.
  - the Jews in the Old Testament had a guide to live by.
10. What does the law do? (Value 4 points)
- It helps a person to live right.
  - Obedience to it makes a person acceptable to God.
  - It shows us that we are sinners.
11. In Romans 3:13 Paul wrote "The poison of asps is under their tongue." By this he meant that: (Open Bible) (Value 4 points)
- an asp is a poisonous snake.
  - they slander and abuse people by the way they speak.
  - they actually use poison under their tongues.
12. Even when Israel failed to keep the law, God: (Value 4 points)
- forsook them.
  - stayed faithful to them.
  - changed the law.
13. In Romans 3:1-8 we see three objections the Jews made that were related to the following: (**Match** – put the letter in front of the reference in the space in front of the phrase.) (Open Bible) (Value 12 points)
- |                              |                 |
|------------------------------|-----------------|
| ___ The promises of God      | a. Romans 3:3   |
| ___ The faithfulness of God  | b. Romans 3:5-7 |
| ___ The righteousness of God | c. Romans 3:2   |
14. Romans 3:9-20 teaches that God requires righteousness of man. (Open Bible) (**Match** – put the letter in front of the reference in the space in front of the phrase.) (Value 16 points)
- |  |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| ___ The condition of man in God's eyes | a. Romans 3:16-18 |
| ___ The conduct of man without God     | b. Romans 3:19-20 |
| ___ The consequences for rejecting God | c. Romans 3:13-15 |
| ___ God's conclusion about man         | d. Romans 3:9-12  |

15. What is the meaning of each following phrase?

(**Match** by putting the letter in front of the correct meaning in the space in front of phrase.)(Value 24 points)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| ___ There is none righteous.            | a. By God's standard none can do good.            |
| ___ There is none that understands.     | b. Sinners run away from God and not to Him.      |
| ___ There is none that seeks after God. | c. Man is without God's righteousness.            |
| ___ All have gone out of the way.       | d. They are of no use to God.                     |
| ___ They are become unprofitable.       | e. No one naturally understands spiritual things. |
| ___ There is none that does good.       | f. Everyone is separated from God.                |

### Decision Time

I realize that I am a sinner who has no righteousness of his own. I need the righteousness that only God can give me. I understand that I am guilty before God, bound for eternal punishment and separation from God. Knowing all this, I am repenting of my sin and by the power of God I am forsaking them. I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God who died for my sin and rose again from the dead on the third day. I believe He is living in heaven at this time.

Therefore I \_\_\_\_\_ receive Him as my personal Savior on this  
\_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_