



So what's the problem?

January 31, 2021

Romans 3:1-20 (ESV)

Then what advantage has the Jew? Or what is the value of circumcision? ² Much in every way. To begin with, the Jews were entrusted with the oracles of God. ³ What if some were unfaithful? Does their faithlessness nullify the faithfulness of God? ⁴ By no means! Let God be true though every one were a liar, as it is written,

“That you may be justified in your words,
and prevail when you are judged.”

⁵ But if our unrighteousness serves to show the righteousness of God, what shall we say? That God is unrighteous to inflict wrath on us? (I speak in a human way.) ⁶ By no means! For then how could God judge the world? ⁷ But if through my lie God's truth abounds to his glory, why am I still being condemned as a sinner? ⁸ And why not do evil that good may come?—as some people slanderously charge us with saying. Their condemnation is just.

⁹ What then? Are we Jews any better off? No, not at all. For we have already charged that all, both Jews and Greeks, are under sin, ¹⁰ as it is written:

“None is righteous, no, not one;

¹¹ no one understands;
no one seeks for God.

¹² All have turned aside; together they have become worthless;
no one does good,
not even one.”

¹³ “Their throat is an open grave;
they use their tongues to deceive.”

“The venom of asps is under their lips.”

¹⁴ “Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness.”

¹⁵ “Their feet are swift to shed blood;

¹⁶ in their paths are ruin and misery,

¹⁷ and the way of peace they have not known.”

¹⁸ “There is no fear of God before their eyes.”

¹⁹ Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰ For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

MESSAGE NOTES

A False Sense of Reliance

OBJECTION 1: God is not the problem.

Accusation: God must be unfaithful because Israel is unfaithful.

vv. 3-4
See Psalm 51:4

Accusation: God can't judge Israel because their failure makes God look good.

vv. 5-8

OBJECTION 2: The Law is the problem.

Oracles = divine message
Entrusted = holding onto it for someone else

v. 20: "For by the works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight since through the law comes knowledge of sin."

CORRECTION: People are the problem.

v. 9: "What then? Are we Jews any better off? No, not at all. For we have already charged that all, both Jews and Greeks, are under sin."

v. 19: "...so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God."

2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 2:24

And so...

GOING DEEPER

We want to encourage you to invest more time into the book of Romans. Like we said, we won't be looking at EVERYTHING in Romans but we will be looking at ENOUGH. Here are some ways for you to go deeper into Romans:

Pray about what you learned today.

If God spoke to you today, find a quiet space and take the time to respond to God in prayer.

Huddle up with some friends.

Join with one of our Home Groups that is going through Romans. Email micah@thecrosspointchurch.ca to learn how to join a group.

Do a deeper Bible Study.

You can access our Home Group study for the week at thecrosspointchurch.ca/notes. Do the "Deeper in the Word" session for yourself.

Read through the entire book of Romans.

In fact, we encourage you to do it a few times, in different translations. Not sure what translations to use? Try the NIV, ESV, NLT, NASB, and The Message. If you need more translations of the Bible you can access them [here](#).

Watch the Bible Project's "Romans" video on YouTube.

Check out the first of two videos [here](#).

Read "Paul for Everyone: Romans, Part One" by N.T. Wright as you go through the series.

You can order a copy [here](#).

Take the free Biblical Training online course with biblical scholar Douglas Moo.

Sign up for the course [here](#).

Read and pray through Romans in 31 days.

These don't need to be consecutive days! You can find a helpful guide [here](#).