

A Study of the Epistles of Paul

NT Survey Lesson 112--Romans 3

Introduction: In this chapter Paul now concludes and summarizes the presented in chapters one and two. He shows that the Law itself, although an advantage to the Jew, reveals the judgment of God against the Jew for his sin. Therefore all are in need of the righteousness of God that comes by faith in Christ apart from the Law. This way of salvation enabled God to be just as well as justifier of the sinner.

Lesson aim: To show how God provides justification through faith in Christ's death on the cross.

The Jew did not use the advantage of having the Law--Rom. 3:1-8

1. Did the Jew have an advantage? (v. 1-2) Was there any benefit in circumcision for the Jews?
2. What was the first or greatest advantage for the Jew? (v. 2)
3. Could the Jews argue that they were faithful to the covenant but God was not faithful to His word in expressing His wrath against them? (v. 3-4) What had David said about God in this respect?
4. Could the Jews argue that, since their admission of unbelief called attention to God's righteousness, God was wrong to inflict wrath upon them? (v. 5-6)
5. If the Jews could justify their refusal to admit their unfaithfulness to God (which was a lie), could they consistently condemn Paul in his supposed "lie" (of preaching Christ)? (v. 7)
6. This kind of argument taken to its conclusion would say, "Let us do _____ that _____ may come". What did Paul say about those who taught such things? (v. 8)

The Law condemns the Jews as transgressors, making all of the world guilty before God--Rom. 3:9-20

1. Were the Jews really any better than the Gentiles? (v. 9) When had Paul already charged that both Jews and Gentiles were under sin?
2. What OT Scriptures confirmed the sinfulness of both the Jew and the Gentile people? (v. 10-18)
3. The Jew would certainly agree that these verses spoke of the pagans. Did they also speak about the Jews? (v. 19) What is the result of this?

The gospel reveals the righteousness of God by faith--Rom. 3:21-31

1. What does Paul say has now been manifested? Witnessed by what? This righteousness is through what? In whom? For whom? Why? (v. 21-23)
2. Is our justification earned by works or a gift of grace? Through what does the justification come?
3. As what did God publicly display Christ? What did this demonstrate? What had God done in the past that caused him to need to prove his righteousness at the present time? (v. 25) What did God do this? (v. 26)
4. Can one boast in this justification? Is it established by a law of faith or a law of works?
5. If the God of the Jews justified them by works and the God of the Gentiles justified them by faith, could they be the same God? Since there is one God, are Jews and Gentiles justified the same way? How? (v. 29-30)
6. Does justification by faith nullify the Law? (v. 31) Rather what does it do?