



Salvation: Why? and How?  
Romans Chapters One to Five  
Calvary Baptist Church

9

Sermon 9: Some Answers for the Jews  
Sunday, June 9 and 23, 2013  
Romans 3:1-20

INTRODUCTION AND REVIEW:

I. A QUESTION ABOUT **ADVANTAGE** (3:1-2)

QUESTION ONE: DID IT DO US ANY GOOD TO BE **JEWS**?

A. The Question (3:1)

B. The Answer (3:2; Dt. 6:1-2; Lk. 16:29; Jn. 13:17; Gn. 6:22; Ex. 40:16; Js. 1:25)

**QUOTE:** Some indication of the importance ascribed to the **Scriptures** can be discerned from the fact that of all the advantages which are attributed to the ancient Jew, the only one mentioned by Paul is possession of the "**oracles** of God." *Believer's Study Bible*

- Truth possessed must be truth **obeyed**.

II. A QUESTION ABOUT **AUTHORITY** (3:3,4)

QUESTION TWO: DID JEWISH UNBELIEF MEAN THAT GOD **FAILED**?

A. The Question (3:3)

**QUOTE:** God will fulfill all the promises He made to the nation, even if individual Jews are not able to receive them because of their **unbelief**.  
*MacArthur Study Bible*

B. The Answer (3:4)

**QUOTE:** If all mankind were to agree that God had been unfaithful to His promises, it would only prove that all are **liars** and God is true. **It is written**. This is quoted from Ps. 51:4. *MacArthur Study Bible*

III. A QUESTION ABOUT **APPROPRIATENESS** (3:5-7)

QUESTION THREE: IF GOD CAN GET GLORY OUT OF MY SIN, IS GOD **FAIR** IN JUDGING ME?

A. The Question (3:5,7)

B. The Answer - As to God's righteousness in judgment.  
(3:6; Gen. 18:25; Ps. 50:6; 58:11; 94:2)

To take this right away from God, and to lose the benefit of God dealing with wicked men, no Jew would **forfeit!**

**APPLY!** – Like the moralist in chapter two, those who argue this way are saying, “God, judge sin, judge wickedness, and the wicked men who do these things. But God, don’t judge **my** sin, and don’t judge **this** wicked person.” What hypocrites we all are! If anything reveals that we need God, it is this “exemption” idea as much as it is any sin that we commit!

#### IV. A QUESTION ABOUT **ACTIONS** (3:8)

QUESTION FOUR: IF GOD CAN GET GLORY OUT OF MY SIN, WHY NOT SIN **MORE**?

##### A. The Question (3:8)

##### B. The Answer - As to sinning to glorify God. (3:8)

**APPLY:** You can text and drive, drink and drive, do drugs and drive. God could use your horrific accident to teach others a **lesson**. Let’s say your car goes over a cliff on a winding mountain road and wedges itself into a large tree and there is nothing that can be done to extract the car, so the county leaves it there. People drive by and say, well there is old stupid Joe’s car! And they say to their kids, don’t be a Joe. Is God using you? Yes! But Joe is still very **dead**! There are right ways and wrong ways to be **used** of God.

#### V. A QUESTION ABOUT **ACCESSION** (SUPERIORITY) (3:9-20)

QUESTION FIVE: DO JEWS HAVE A **FAST TRACK** TO GOD?

##### A. The Question (3:9)

##### B. The Answer (3:9B – 20)

**QUOTE: 3:9–20** This passage records climactically, at the end of the first major section (1:18–3:20), the universal ravages of **sin**. In vv. 10–18, Paul strings together a number of O.T. quotes to demonstrate and **verify** his thesis of the universality of sin. “All” are “under sin” (v. 9). “There is none righteous” (v. 10). “There is none who does good” (v. 12). “All have sinned” (v. 23). Man is immersed in the misery of sin, and he is guilty of contentment in sin. No one even seeks after God. Humanity as a whole is under the power and condemnation of sin. *Believer’s Study Bible*

**David Speaks: (Ps. 14:1-3 repeated in Ps. 53:1-3)**

**Solomon Speaks (Eccl. 7:20)**

**Isaiah Speaks (53:6)**

##### 1. The **Extent** of Depravity (3:9-12)

a. Jew and Gentile (3:9B; 1:14)

b. Not One **Righteous** Person (3:10; Ps. 14:1)

- c. **Not One Who Understands (3:11; Ps. 14:2; Rom. 1:19-20)**  
**QUOTE:** Man is unable to comprehend the truth of God or grasp His **standard** of righteousness. *MacArthur Study Bible*
  - d. **Not One Who Seeks God (3:11B; Ps. 14:2; Jn. 6:37,44)**
  - e. **Not One Headed in the Right Direction (3:12; Ps. 14:3; Isa. 53:6)**
  - f. **Not One Worth Anything (3:12B)**
  - g. **Not One Who Does Good (3:12C)**
2. **The Effect of Depravity (3:13 – 18)**
- a. **Depravity as it Relates to Man's Mouth (Speech) (3:13-14)**  
**NOTE:** It is no accident, that of the eight revelations of man's depravity, Paul uses **half** the list to describe man's mouth!
    1. **Decay (3:13; Mt. 12:34, 35; 15:18)**
    2. **Deceit (3:13B)**
    3. **Deadly (3:13C; Ps. 140:3)**
    4. **Damnation (3:14; Ps. 10:7; 64:3-4)**  
**Cursing** – Wanting the **worst** for someone and publicly expressing that desire in caustic, derisive language.  
*MacArthur Study Bible*  
**Bitterness** – The open, public expression of emotional **hostility** against one's enemy.
  - b. **Depravity as it Relates to Man's Feet (3:15-17)**  
**Mankind is always running toward ...**
    1. **Death (3:15)**
    2. **Destruction (3:16A)**
    3. **Despair (3:16B)**  
**QUOTE:** Man damages and destroys everything he touches, leaving a trail of pain and **suffering** in his wake. *MacArthur Study Bible*
    4. **Disturbance (3:17)**  
**way of peace.** Not the lack of an inner sense of peace, but man's tendency toward **strife** and conflict, whether between individuals or nations. *MacArthur Study Bible*
  - c. **Depravity as it Relates to Man's Eyes (3:18; Pr. 1:7; 1 Cor. 11:30)**

**QUOTE:** If Paul had wanted to give a more complete catalog of sins, he could have mentioned *the sins of sex*: adultery, homosexuality, lesbianism, perversion, bestiality, prostitution, rape, lewdness, pornography, and smut. He could have mentioned *the sins associated with war*: destruction of innocents, atrocities, gas chambers, ovens, concentration camps, torture devices, sadism. He could have mentioned *sins of the home*: unfaithfulness, divorce, wifebeating, mental cruelty, child abuse. Add to these the crimes of murder, mutilation, theft, burglary, embezzlement, vandalism, graft, corruption. Also *the sins of speech*: profanity, suggestive jokes, sensual language, cursing, blasphemy, lies, backbiting, gossip, character assassination, grumbling, and complaining. *Other personal sins* are: drunkenness, drug addiction, pride, envy, covetousness, ingratitude, filthy thought-life, hatred, and bitterness. The list is seemingly endless—pollution, littering, racism, exploitation, deceit, betrayal, broken promises, and on and on. What further **proof** of human depravity is needed?

*Believer's Bible Commentary*

### **CONCLUSION (3:19-20)**

How often we avoid the mirror! Much of our society today lives as Dostoyevsky chronicled in *The Brothers Karamazov*: "If God does not exist, everything is permissible." By avoiding the mirror of God's truth, we act like the deceived man imagined by James the apostle who looks in the mirror of God's word and goes away, immediately forgetting what he saw (Jas. 1:22–24). Everything becomes permissible; nothing is **prohibited**. But as much as we might want to deny the realities of sin and unrighteousness—as much as the believers in Rome might not have wanted to hear about their sin—Paul delivers to us no such luxury. Paul is a realist, and the truth is that all have sinned. Our spouse, our friends, our loved ones know we have sinned. We see it in their faces. And we would see it in the face of our **God** if we would look into his Word—that mirror that reflects not only who we are but who he is, and who we can become in him. *Holman New Testament Commentary*