

## A Worldwide Dilemma

### Romans 3

- Paul has not been to R when he writes, in Acts 20:2-3. He makes it there ~4yrs later
- Church comprised of Jewish Christians & Gentile Christians – clash of cultures now one in Christ
- Ch. 2 Paul shifts his attention from the Gentiles to the Jews.
- Ch. 3 answers the Jew's objections

#### **1. Answering Objections – Romans 3:1-8**

- A] What about God's covenant? 1-2
- 1: "If what you say is true, what is the point of being a Jew?"
- 2: advantage alone ≠ guarantee success
- B] Does this nullify God's faithfulness? 3-4
- 3: play on words: entrusted, believe same
- 4: strongest negative possible in GK
- C] Is God's righteousness being underestimated? 5-6
- 5: showing how ridiculous humans can be when they try to justify their sins
- 6: Jew's unrighteousness enhanced God's righteousness
- D] Are you not confused about God's glory? 7-8
- 7: some don't see this as an objection
- 8: evil is never good; sin is never to be commended
- Paul thought this phrase needed no refutation

#### **2. Both Jew and Gentiles under Sin and Need God's Righteousness – Romans 3:9-20**

- 9: previously indicted them, 1:18-3:9
- 10-12: approach called *charaz*, "stringing together of pearls;" proof texts
- 13-14: Ps. 5:9 – tongue; Ps. 140:3 – asps;  
Ps. 10:7 – mouth full
- 15-17: Isa. 59:7-8; throat, tongues, lips, mouth, feet – sin a fatal illness from head to foot!
- 18: Ps. 36:1; fear – respect and awe
- 9-18 doesn't teach total hereditary depravity

- 19: last mouth to be closed was the Jews
- 20: Divine Law produces a knowledge of sin – it exposed all people as sinners

### **3. Righteousness Through Faith, for all People – Romans 3:21-31**

- 21: manifested: made known; refers to all OT
- 22: faith – key word in text. Leads into 23
- 23: synopsis of 1:18-3:20; fall short – runner behind in race; glory of God – awesome presence
- 24: justified: ‘declared righteous’ by God; “just if I’ed” never sinned
- 25: propitiation – only way of appeasing God’s wrath; same word in Lv. 16
- 26: supreme paradox – the just (punish sins) is also the justifier (saving sinner)
- 27: boasting – bragging
- 28: salvation by grace leaves no room for boasting of personal achievement
- 29,30: Jews & Gentiles on equal footing
- If God is the God of the Gentiles also, then it is only natural that they, too, should be included in God’s plan for mankind’s salvation.
- 31: P knew his critics would accuse him of going against the Law so v. 31 is included
- Nullify – reduce to inactivity

#### **Lessons:**

1. We should not do evil just so God’s grace can be abundant. (Paul will bring this back up in the 6<sup>th</sup> chapter.) Instead, we should live a life that is in accordance with God’s Word.
2. 3:23 – don’t use this frequently quoted verse out of context as a “license to sin.” Rather, view it in light of 1 Cor. 10:13 – nothing new; always an escape route.
3. The Blood of Jesus Christ is the only way that we can be forgiven of our sins! There is no other substitute and no other way to have our sins forgiven.

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