



# Epistle to The Romans



## Lesson 4: Romans 3, The Religious Man

The subject of the religious man actually started at the end of Romans 2 and will be amplified in this chapter. This is where Paul used the Jewish man as an example of someone who is overly religious. No men were more diligent, more rigorous, more adhering to a set of rules, and yet, where does this all lead? We will deal with it in this chapter.

Paul uses the words Uncircumcision to refer to the gentiles (non-Jews), and Circumcision to refer to the Jews. Paul highlights the differences between the uncircumcision (gentiles) and the Circumcision (Jews), highlighting that Circumcision is not enough.

### ***Read Romans 3 verse 1***

In the first chapter Pagans were condemned before God (Rom 1), In the second chapter Moral Man condemned before God (Rom 2) and now in this chapter Religious People Condemned before God (Jew).

### ***Read Romans 3 verse 2***

Many people who read Romans 3:2 do not fully understand what it is talking about. The casual reader sees this as saying that the Jew had the advantage because unto the Jews were entrusted the scriptures. The word here 'Oracles' means divine utterances or promises (some not yet fulfilled!). Jews were not just "custodians" of the Scripture, but the very recipients of God's promises.

There were no promises given to the Church in the OT! (Rom 16:25, 26). The Church was kept secret (Eph 3:1-6). Ex: Mt 13: "hidden before the foundation of the world..." Paul counted it his unique privilege to reveal what was hidden in the OT.

This is not a question of Gentiles coming to faith. They did that in the OT. The fact that Gentiles would become saved is mentioned by Isaiah. Paul is talking about what makes the Church distinct, which is the fact that the Gentiles will be fellow heirs, and of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the Gospel.

The Church was born by a miracle (Acts 2) and will be removed by a miracle (1 Thess 4:17ff; 1 Cor 15:51ff).

Understand that Israel and the Church are distinct and mutually exclusive—they have different origins and different destinies.

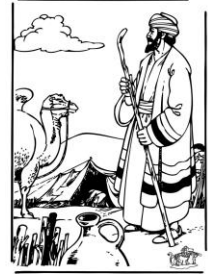
There is a heresy in the body of Christ we need to be aware of: that God is finished with the Jew and the Church has taken over the promises that were given to Israel (Cf. Rom 9, 10, 11). This heresy argues that when Israel rejected her Messiah, she forfeited the promises given to her by God and those promises now rest upon the Church. It goes by names such as "Replacement Theology," "Reconstruction Theology," "Dominionists," "Kingdom Now."

Let's look at some of the promises: **Read Genesis 17:6-11**, the covenant with Abraham.

In verse 7, what type of covenant does God make Abraham (Israel)? \_\_\_\_\_.

Three ways to become a "Seed of Abraham":

- 1) Physical seed of Abraham (some of the promises are to those direct descendants, even if unbelievers);
- 2) Believers get spiritual benefits;
- 3) Gentiles through union with Jesus Christ.



**Read Jeremiah 31:35-37**

The world would have to disintegrate before Israel would be cast off! Reconstructionists in a sense are calling God a liar! This replacement heresy led to the anti-Semitism in Europe that led to the Holocaust; and we are starting to see anti-Semitism rise in the world today, even among Christians.

**Read Ezekiel 37:11-14**

**Judgment Declared**

*And when He was come near, He beheld the city, and wept over it, Saying, If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes. Luke 19:41, 42*

In the above passage many people miss the phrase "*now they are hid from thine eyes.*" Jesus, creator of the Universe, held them accountable for not knowing or recognizing the very day it was foretold. Now Israel is blinded.

**Read Romans 11:25**

Yet, Israel's national blindness is not permanent (Rom 11:25). The "Fullness of the Gentiles" is the gathering of the Church. Israel's national blindness will be lifted when the "fullness of the Gentiles" be "come in." The Gentiles are gathered and brought in at the rapture.

**Read Romans 3 verse 3**

"Shall their unbelief nullify the faithfulness of God?" It is the faithfulness of God that is the issue; not Israel's unfaithfulness.

**Read Romans 3 verse 4**

If you don't believe the promises that God has given the Jew, you are calling God a liar! Paul in a sense is calling the Reconstructionists (replacement theologians) liars! Cf. 1 Jn 5:10; the concepts of unbelief, disobedience, and calling God a liar are equivalent. Unbelief is not accepting God's word.

**Read Psalm 51:1-4**

David confessed his sin, acknowledged his guilt and repented (**1 John 1:9**). Repentance is essential to the Jew—and to ourselves as Christians! Cf. Zech 12:10-13:1; Hos 5:15.

**Read Romans 3 verse 5**

Implied: “We did God a favor by being so rebellious! Is God going to judge us for glorifying Him?” The Greek demands a negative answer... we’ll deal with this later in Romans 6.

**Read Romans 3 verse 6**

The rabbis knew that the Gentiles were to be judged, so Paul is using an ellipsis on their own conviction...by the same judgement the Jews also fail.

**Read Romans 3 verse 7**

The lie here means moral falsehood. Each individual could claim exemption from the judgment of God because his sin had advanced the glory of God.

**Read Romans 3 verse 8**

Salvation is by grace not by works. That is what Paul is building up to. Salvation cannot be lost through works; it is secure eternally. If you cannot be saved by works you are not lost by works either. It is not either one that saves you, it is a 100% job that Christ has done. No one can add to what Christ has done on the cross. That does not mean we shouldn’t do good works, but they cannot save.

What keeps you from sinning? A grateful heart, overflowing with love for their Savior!

**Read Romans 3 verse 9**

**We are all guilty.**

**The Case Against the Entire Human Race**

- vv. 10-12 Man’s Character = hopelessly flawed
- vv. 13-17 Man’s Conduct
  - vv. 13-14: Speech
  - vv. 15-17: Actions
- vv. 18 The Cause
  - q.v. Ps 14:1-3; 53:1-3; 5:9; Ps 36:1; 140:3; 10:7; Isa 59:7, 8;



**† Man’s Character**

**Read Romans 3 verse 10**

All have failed at something.

**Read Romans 3 verse 11**

All are willfully ignorant! (Chapter 1:18-32 nailed this thoroughly). This is a free rendering of Psalm 14:1. Paul told the Athenians, the philosophers on Mars' Hill: "And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent" (Acts 17:30).

## **Election**

If "none seeks," then all that "seek" do so upon God's initiative = Election!

### ***Read Luke 4:25-29***

Lots of widows around and only one was sent. Lots of lepers around but only one was cleansed. The pharisees get so upset at what was said that they try to throw him off a cliff! Why? What is wrong with the fact that He saved only one widow and one leper?

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He was talking to a Jewish audience and they were incensed at Him. What He is communicating here is the doctrine of election.

### ***Read John 6:43-47***

[We will explore this further in Romans 8:29-30.].



### ***Read Romans 3 verse 12***

They have deliberately turned their backs on the truth. They have dishonored God instead of glorifying Him. (What use are they?) They do not follow after that which is good. Man never evolves upwards. H always devolves downward!

## **✠ Man's Conduct (His Speech)**

### ***Read Romans 3 verse 13 & 14***

Quoting Ps 5:9. Asp = Egyptian cobra. Cf. Ps 140:3. The most painful sin? Gossip! Man's tongue is a window into his heart. Cf. Mk 7:18-23; Mt 12:34-37; Cf. Rom 10:9, 10!

## **✠ Man's Conduct (His Actions)**

Paul uses anatomical order: from the inside outward... throat, tongue, lips...feet.

### ***Read Romans 3 verse 15***

The 20th century was the bloodiest in history.

### ***Read Romans 3 verse 16***

Man has no fulfillment except in glorifying God.

***Read Romans 3 verse 17***

Eph 6:15. There is no peace when separated from God.

***Read Romans 3 verse 18***

(Quoting Psalm 36:1) As in the days of Noah: “The end of all flesh has become before me.” Gen 6:12, 13; Deut 5:29.

**✠ The Mystery is Why Does God Save Any?**

***Read Romans 3 verse 19 & 20***

Paul will start to begin to give us the remedy, the beginning of the answer: acknowledgment of reality:

- 1) The law shows us what sin is;
- 2) The law drives us to sin more !?: We will explore this in Rom 5:20-21
- 3) The law drives us to our knees! Gal 3:24. Faith (in Christ) alone.

***Read Romans 3 verse 21***

“But now...” Marks the key conclusion: The Gospel as the (only) remedy. Something the law cannot do. A major division: now the solution!

“The Righteousness of God” is the theme of the Epistle to the Romans.

Jeremiah 23:5,6 “The Lord our Righteousness”. Ps 43:1,2: Luther noted this was on the basis of God’s righteousness... not man’s! Anytime we attempt righteousness, we are denying God’s righteousness. The only righteousness that counts is one that is given; Ps 32:1, 2 (quoted in Rom 4) Luther called this psalm “a Pauline Psalm.”

Isa 53:11—it’s the Cross that justifies. Religion doesn’t work; it is simply a person’s attempt to justify himself before God. Jesus Christ is the most anti-religious person who ever walked the face of the earth.

***Read Romans 3 verse 22 & 23***

The pagan, the moral man, the religious man—all have fallen [keep coming] short of the glory of God...Job 25:4-6. That is the whole purpose of the first three chapters of Romans; to lay down the fact that everyone, without equivocation, needs a savior.

***Read Romans 3 verse 24***

Four critical words: “Justify,” declare legally without guilt; righteous not a process: all at once...

“Freely” means a gift given “without a cause,” (Jn 15:3);

“Grace,” To earn salvation by works would be to put God in man’s debt. Grace is getting what you don’t deserve.

“Redemption” means to be set free from a slave market by paying the ransom (Cf. 1 Jn 5:19; Jn 12:31; Eph 2:2,3; Col 2:14; Heb 2:14, 15; 1 Pet 1:18, 19).

When John the Baptist first introduced Jesus to the public (Jn 1:29), he summarized the God’s remedy to our failures: “Behold the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world.”

### ✠ **God’s Greatest Problem: How to Be Just and Yet Justify Sinful Man?**

The greatest barrier: God’s own character!

#### **Read Romans 3 verse 25**

Propitiation it is considered by some the greatest love word in the Scripture! The word means atoning or suffering punishment for wrongdoing: making amends; something done, or given, to make up for a wrongdoing. In other words, Christ bore our sins, his blood made up for our shortcomings.

#### **God’s Greatest Barrier to us is His Own Character**

- 1) **Sovereign**; accountable only to Himself.
- 2) **Omniscient**; knows all. He can’t learn. He can’t be disappointed in you because he knows in advance when you will fall.
- 3) **Omnipotent**; all powerful, visible and invisible.
- 4) **Omnipresent**;
- 5) **Love**;
- 6) **Immutable**; unchanging.
- 7) **Just**; the standard of His own character: absolute righteousness. He can’t just forgive out of leniency as that would violate his character. So, the sins you have committed have to be paid for and nothing short of the death of God himself will avail! God became a man and fulfilled the law on our behalf and in our stead. Links back to (1).

#### **Read Romans 3 verse 26**

“That..” The most important purpose clause! This is God’s greatest problem: “that He might be just, and [yet] the justifier of him...” Jesus is the solution!

#### **Read Romans 3 verse 27**

Faith is taking God at His Word

#### **Read Romans 3 verse 28**

Abraham was reckoned to righteousness by his faith when he was still on Gentile ground (Gen 15:6), two chapters before the covenant sign of circumcision was placed upon his flesh. [This will be developed in Chapter 4.] If our Jewish or legalistic friends could only understand this.

**Read Romans 3 verse 29 through 31**

...in the purpose that the Law was given:

- 1) To show us what sin is;
- 2) To drive us to sin more (!?): Rom 5:20-21
- 3) To drive us to our knees! Gal 3:24. Faith (in Christ) alone.

Some scholars consider the first three chapters of Romans as the 'Tough' part. Many of these verses in the first three chapters could be springboards in in-depth studies.

Chapters 4-5 deal with salvation.

**Next Session**

Read Romans Chapter 4. Thought questions: Abraham and David speak about God's greatest gift. How was Abraham saved? How was David saved? Is Paul's doctrine contradicted by the Epistle of James?

ROMANS CHAPTER TWO

D L A A T R U T H C C E O S E Z	AGAINST	JUDGE
N L T G U G R E V D V O T B E I	ANOTHER	OBEY
I G A O A A U O T E Y E M L E R	BEING	PATIENT
L A N N D I N I R O A M I M E Y	BLIND	PEACE
B O D I R N N Y D L W T A S I S	BOAST	PERISH
H Y A D E E N S U E N R P S I T	COMMIT	RENDER
R S R I A B T T T E S E A N I E	DEEDS	RESPECT
E G N I K Y J E G T C G N T D C	DOETH	RICHS
D E K N O U M A N T N E N O H A	DOING	SHALT
N E H T D F N N O I D E E I S E	ESCAPE	SINNED
E N T G B O G E E D E T I G H P	ETERNAL	STEAL
R S E R T O E N E T H R L T E T	EVERY	THINGS
T S C H A N A E I E T I E R A C	GENTILE	TRUTH
T N E A A E D S N O O I I H D P	GUIDE	WHEREIN
E R S A P S H B T Y D S R S W A	HEART	WRATH
T L A H S E T R I C H E S W N A	HONOUR	WRITTEN

ROMANS CHAPTER THREE

L B P H S T S T D I B R O F A T  
 D B C O S P H I T E N E I A C R  
 P U E I I E E H N D N R F H O R  
 M R R L I S R A C N L A I O A T  
 G H O R I O O N K R E E E T R C  
 C L K F A E E N L O F R H H D E  
 E W O T I N V A C L M E A O H F  
 D V E R H T K E Y S R O O O C F  
 D E E T Y D P D E P E L O H C E  
 S P I R E U N C E R B L S R F E  
 D A P V Y E P S J E A J C R P M  
 F E O E M G U R A U E L E A R L  
 T R C M R A I L S S D E C I R R  
 P R O E C E P P U E L G F E P O  
 D C U E I E F S F Y U F E T D S  
 M A B E H T R U T H A R E D N U

AFFIRM JESUS  
 BECAUSE JUDGED  
 BEFORE LIAR  
 BELIEVE MUCH  
 BLOOD ORACLES  
 CHIEFLY POISON  
 CHRIST PROFIT  
 COMMEND PROVED  
 DECEIT RATHER  
 DECLARE SINNER  
 EFFECT SPEAK  
 EVERY THEIR  
 FAITH THROAT  
 FORBID TRUE  
 FREELY TRUTH  
 GLORY UNDER

