

SRMBC Family Bible Study

Romans: A New Lifestyle

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Lesson 4: The Verdict Romans 3:1 – 20

Throughout the centuries, people have boasted about their obedience to God. But if their eternal destiny were decided by the quality of their lives, how would they fare? How would you? There is one sure way to find out. Take your case to the divine court. The Bible assures us that we will all have our day in court (Romans 2:5-6; 14:10-12). But we need not wait until then to find out the verdict. The Word of God tells us in advance.

Group Discussion: Describe some of the thoughts and feelings you might have if you were on trial for committing a serious crime — and you knew you were guilty.

- Part of me would start thinking of how my crime/character compares to other people — especially those who have done “worse” than I.
- I would be hoping that somehow the judge would see that my “good” far outweighs my bad.
- I would also have a great deal of fear — knowing that sooner or later the guilty Judgement would come down — and I have no leg to stand on.

Read Romans 3:1 – 20.

1. **What were some of the spiritual advantages in being a Jew? What are some of the religious advantages God has granted to you?**

Spiritual Advantages to the Jews:

- The Jews — of all people were chosen by God to demonstrate who He is to the rest of the world.
- They have the example and faith of Abraham — circumcision and father of faith.
- Moses and the Law and the Prophets — the laws love and knowledge of the one true God.
- The privilege of being the people chosen to be the line through which the Messiah and Savior (Jesus) would come.

Spiritual Advantages to the us/me:

- We live in a country/culture where we have freedom to express faith in Christ.
- My Grandma took us (drug us) to church when we were kids.
- The Bible is available to us in every format imaginable.
- There is a church literally on every corner — no excuse not to be in worship.
- Christian Radio/TV/Internet — available everywhere.

Despite the “religious” advantages we’ve received (us and the Jews) everyone still needs to be saved by hearing the Gospel and responding with faith in Jesus Christ. As we will see as we look further into this passage — there is none of us that are so good that we do not need the Lord to save us.

2. **Why might some Jews have accused God of unfaithfulness and injustice (vv. 3-8)? How does Paul respond to these accusations? (If our unrighteousness brings out God's righteousness and increases his glory, then why is he condemning us?)**

People's Accusation #1 (vs.3)

The people were stiff – necked, disobedient and unfaithful to the Word of God – since we are His people (He's like us – so he should kinda “forget” our sinfulness)

Paul's Response #1 (vs. 4)

Everyone else may lie and be unfaithful – but God and His word is true (Gal 6:6 – 7) God's word will win out in end

People's Accusation #2 (vs. 5)

Since our sinfulness serves a good purpose – people can see the righteous God better. It's not fair for Him to punish us.

Paul's Response #2 (vs. 6)

That's a human thought (stinkin' thinkin'). God has to be fair, righteous and just in order to fairly Judge the World (Judge Judy, Wapner, etc.)

People's Accusation #3 (vs. 7 – 8a)

How can God judge me if my sin – cause people to see His Grace and give Him glory? The more we sin the more God's grace abounds (cf. Romans 5:20 - 21).

Paul's Response #3 (vs. 8b)

If you think this way (if you that stupid) you deserve to be condemned.

God will be faithful to His character and to His Word – which means He will judge sin and sinners. When we say/recognize that God is good – we need to realize that He is too good to let us get away with sin.

3. **In the role of prosecutor, Paul has charged that Jews and Gentiles alike are under sin (v. 9). How does Scripture support his charge (vv. 10-18)?**

The Charges

All are under sin – religious Jews or Gentile

The Penalty

Death physical & Spiritual death (Eternal Separation from God)

The Evidence

- **No one is righteous — not even one.**
- **No one is truly wise; no one is seeking God.**
- **All have turned away; all have become useless.**
- **No one does good, not a single one.”**
- **“Their talk is foul, like the stench from an open grave. Their tongues are filled with lies.”**
- **“Snake venom drips from their lips.” “Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness.”**
- **“They rush to commit murder. Destruction and misery always follow them**
- **They don’t know where to find peace.” “They have no fear of God at all.”**

The evidence of our sin against God is clear and Irrefutable - and we have no excuse when we compare our “righteousness” compared to the righteousness and obedience to the Law that God demands.

4. How does the figurative language of verses 13-18 graphically illustrate our condition as fallen people?

Figurative Language	Description
Their talk is foul, like the stench from an open grave	The evil things that we say – people say are like an a deadly odor in the nostrils of a Holy God (Blaspheming, Evil Speech).
Snake venom drips from their lips	Poisonous talk – killing relationships, reputation. Like snake natural have poison and use it by reflex – so do we use our speech against each other.
Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness	People curse and complain all the time. Even cursing while they are complaining
They rush to commit murder	The unsaved rush to kill others (You Tube, Sandy Hook, etc.)
Destruction and misery always follow them	Everywhere people go they cause a wreck – like mayhem in the AllState Commercial. Sinners not only make a mess of their lives but others as well.
They don’t know where to find peace.” “They have no fear of God at all	No peace – jumping from relationship to relationship, job to job -even church to church. Doing whatever they feel – with no regard for God’s judgment.

5. **Imagine a courtroom scene with God as the judge and the world on trial. From what you have learned in Romans 1:18—3:20, summarize the charges against us, the supporting evidence and the verdict.**

The Charges	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Willful/Sinful ignorance of God and His Law• Active engagement in evil thoughts and deed• Breaking of all the Laws (10 Commandments)• Encouraging others to do the same• Evil speaking against God and others
The Evidence	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Not seeking God or wanting to do what is right• Lying, stealing, blasphemy, sexual immorality, etc.• Not worshipping obeying God• Making excuses for our sin and disobedience• Creating our own idols to worship• Bad language, speaking and listening
The Verdict	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Guilty of all charges – even from childhood• Sentenced to death – eternal separation for God (Hell)

One of my favorite TV shows is “Law and Order” (In the criminal justice system ...) it is amazing to watch people who have been accused of the crimes with all of the evidence satcked against them still tries to pretend that they are not guilty. Only when things look bleak do they admit what they did and plea to get a reduced sentence. We will not be able to plead our case with God the righteous Judge. Our only hope is to accept the Person and Work of Jesus - Our Saviour

6. **According to verse 20, God’s law does not make us righteous but rather exposes our sin. How has the law had that impact on your life?**

- The Law of God gave a name for my sin that was different than what I called it
- The Law of God showed me that no matter how much I tried I could never be good enough to be right with God.
- The Law of God showed/shows me my need for a Savior – someone who kept the Law

7. **Paul does not discuss the grace of God (3:21—5:21) until he has discussed the judgment of God (1:18—3:20). Why?**

In order for us to appreciate our need for the Grace of God (God’s Riches At Christ’s Expense) for the forgiveness of sins, We need to really understand the sinfulness of our sins and the wrath/Judgment that we deserve.

8. How should Paul's example affect our evangelism? (Be as specific as possible.)

- We need to be loving – but also telling the truth understanding the compassion God has for sinners.
- We need to tell the truth about sin, our guilt and the punishment we will deserve and receive if we do not repent and trust Jesus.
- Once the guilt and penalty of sin is made clear – then we can let people know that Jesus has died for them and has risen from the dead that we can be forgiven and saved.

The letter to the Romans could have ended with 3:20. God would be perfectly just to condemn us all and to leave us fearfully awaiting his wrath. Let this fact sink in for a moment, then take time to thank God for being not only just but also merciful and gracious.

Keys for Living



No matter how religious and moral we are or try to be, we can never be good enough to make ourselves right with God apart from faith in Jesus Christ.



The Law of God, while not able to save, is good, for it presents God's righteous standards and makes us aware of our own sin.



God's righteousness has not and will not change. **We** must change by confessing our sins and accepting Jesus as Saviour.