

THE BOOK OF ROMANS
God's Final Verdict
Grace: The Truth that Transforms
Romans 3:1-20

This morning we are looking at the last 20 verses of the first major section of Romans where Paul makes his closing arguments of God's case against humanity.

I think the best way to look at this section is to look at it as if you're in a COURTROOM. Paul is the prosecuting attorney making the case that everybody in the world has done something wrong in their life and will therefore be judged and we need a Saviour. In this section Paul does what any good lawyer would do.

1. He anticipates the questions that are in the minds of the jurors and he answers them in advance.
2. He sees the jury thinking "What about this and this..." Paul makes his closing arguments in the first nine verses.
3. Then he brings in supporting evidence. He brings in some testimonies and quotations from the Old Testament in support of what he is doing (v. 10-18).
4. In the last two verses he summarizes his conclusion and asks for a verdict.

In the first eight verses of chapter 3 Paul asks some questions and gives some answers. First, we're going to look at the objections that Paul answers and the questions. There are **FOUR QUESTIONS AND FOUR ANSWERS**. Paul loved to use questions and answers as a teaching tool. In a synagogue setting it was perfectly normal for the teacher to speak and then say, "Are there any questions?" And he'd open it up.

QUESTION #1: The Jew's _____.

3:1 *What advantage is there then in being a Jew? Or what value is there in circumcision?*

Paul answers: v. 2 *Much in every way.* It's a great privilege to be a Jew.

1. First of all they have been entrusted with the very words of God.
2. The second thing the Jews were to do with the Word of God was to share it.

QUESTION #2: v:3b God's _____ . .

v. 4 *Not at all. Let God be true and every man be a liar. As it is written so that you may be proved right in your words and prevailing in your judging.*

Paul bases his answer on Psalm 89:30-37: *If his sons forsake My law and do not follow My statutes, if they violate My decrees and fail to keep My commandment I will punish their sin with a rod and their iniquity with floggings but I will not take My love from him, nor will I ever betray My faithfulness. I will not violate My covenant or alter what My lips have uttered. Once for all I have sworn by My holiness I will not lie to David and his line will continue forever and the throne endure before Me like the sun. It will be established forever like the moon, a faithful witness in the sky.*

QUESTION #3: God's _____.

v. 5 *If our unrighteousness brings out God's righteousness more clearly what shall we say, that God is unjust in bringing His wrath on us? I am using a human argument.*

PAUL'S ANSWER: V: 6 *Is that the right way to think about it? Certainly not! If that were so how could God judge the world?*

QUESTION #4. Questioning God's _____.

v. 7 *Someone might argue, 'If my falsehood, enhances God's truthfulness and so increases His glory, why am I still condemned as a sinner?'*

v. 8 *Why not say as we are being slandered as purported to be saying, and as some claim that we say, let us do evil that good may result.*

Paul's response to that attitude was the last thing he said in v. 8. *Their condemnation is deserved. verse 9. Paul's closing argument: What shall we conclude then? Are we [Paul's fellow Jews] any better. Not at all. We have already made the charge that all Jews and Gentiles alike are all under sin.*

THEN PAUL GOES INTO SECTION TWO WHICH IS 10-18
WHICH ARE THE PASSAGES FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

CHARAZ. Charaz literally means a stringing of _____.

We have in these verses Paul's topical sermon on SIN.

Point #1 he talks about man's character (v. 10-12)

Point #2 he talks about humanities conduct (v. 13-17)

Point #3 he talks about the cause of sin.

v. 10-12 (Psalm 14:1-3) Paul says *There is no one righteous not even one.*

v. 12 *And all have turned their own way everybody's doing their own thing.*

v. 13 (Psalm 5:9) *Their throat are open graves, their tongue practice deceit.*

v. 14 *Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness. (Psalm 10:7)*

v. 15-17. ... *their feet are swift to shed blood, ruin and misery mark their way and the way of peace they do not know. (Isaiah 59:7-9)*

v. 18. *Because there is no fear of God before their eyes. (Psalm 36:1)*

Paul starts with questions then he moves to quotations then he moves to CONCLUSION.

V: 19 *Now, we know that whatever the law says it says to those who are under the law so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God.*

V:20. *Therefore no one will be declared righteous in His sight by observing the law. Rather through the law we become conscious of sin.*

Paul sums it up with two truths:

1. The whole world is accountable to God.
2. The whole world is without excuse.

V:20. Therefore no one will be declared righteous in His sight by observing the law. Rather through the law we become conscious of sin.

Paul says no one can ever be saved keeping the Ten Commandments. No one has ever been saved by keeping the law. Why was the law given? If it can't get you to heaven, why did God give the Law?

God gave the Law in the Bible for two reasons:

1. Purpose 1: It makes us aware/conscious of our sin.
2. The second purpose of the law -- ***Galatians 3:23-24. Before this faith came we were held prisoners by the law locked up until faith should be revealed.*** The law imprisons people; it doesn't set people free. Grace sets people free, not the law.

SUMMARY:

The final verdict is man is guilty beyond a reasonable doubt. The whole world is lost. The bottom line is everybody needs to be saved. Whether you're respectable, religious or rebellious. That's the bad news! Next week we get into the good news.

Between v. 20 and v. 21 Paul switches roles and becomes the attorney for the defense. All of a sudden we realize that we don't have to live under condemnation. One verse: ***Romans 8:1*** ***Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.*** That's the good news.