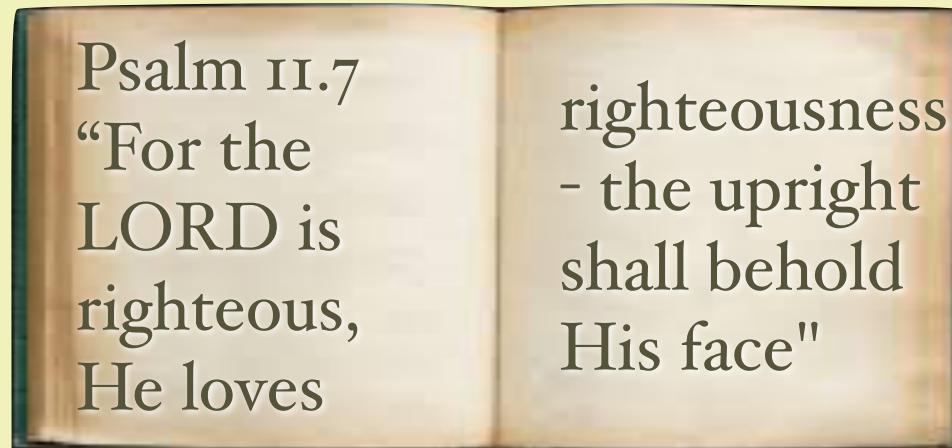




Paul's Epistle to the Romans

- Romans 3.1-20
- The Righteousness of God finds all men sinners deserving Judgment whether Jew or Gentile

Romans Theme: The Gospel reveals the Righteousness of God



“God is Righteous”: one of the definitions of His character in Bible
(He. word “tsadiq” comes from a root meaning “straight”)

1. **God is ALL right** - everything about Him is Right (straight): He defines what righteous means
2. **God is ALWAYS right** - whatever arguments or ideas others may have, God's judgment, decisions and wisdom are always right (straight)
3. **God DOES ALL things Right** - whatever God starts He completes - He does the RIGHT (straight) thing the Right Way
4. **GOD MAKES things RIGHT** - when God looks upon man's helpless estate He must provide a way to make what is wrong right (what is crooked straight)

Romans Theme: The Gospel reveals the Righteousness of God

There is no greater folly than to deny the existence of the One who made us. This is not the voice of rational doubt, but of moral rebellion. It is not reason that rejects God--it is the sinful heart that refuses to bow before Him. To deny God is to deny the foundation of all truth, justice, and meaning. Without God there can be . . . no moral standards, no true purpose in life, and no hope beyond the grave.

- Charles Spurgeon

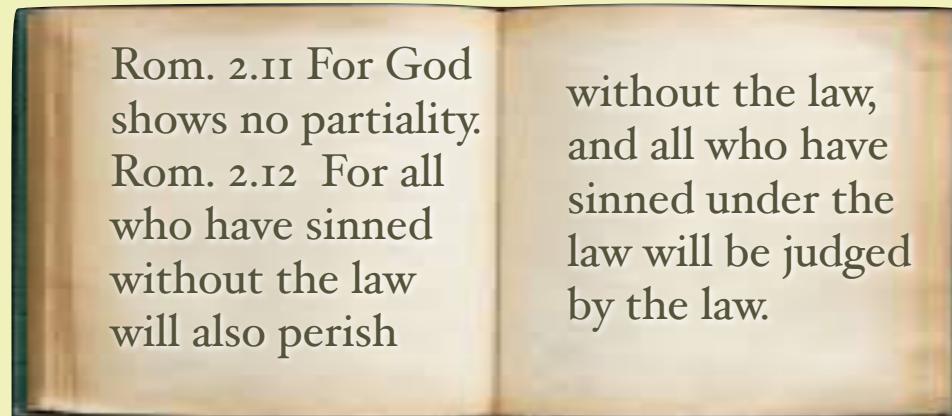
I. Rom.1:18-32 The Righteousness of God first revealed as “wrath”

A. Paul teaches that fallen mankind knows judgment is coming because all have rejected God's righteousness revealed in three ways:

1. **Creation** reveals in nature His divine power and righteous character
2. **Conscience** has been given to all mankind enabling one to approve or condemn his actions
3. **Reason** has been granted all mankind to understand that the **Laws of Nature** regarding **righteous sexual boundaries, family unity and tribal and national morals are necessary** to preserve life among sinners

B. God first reveals His wrath by simply letting go of the restraints and covering on all mankind resulting in darkened hearts, depravity and moral decline

Romans Theme: The Gospel reveals the Righteousness of God

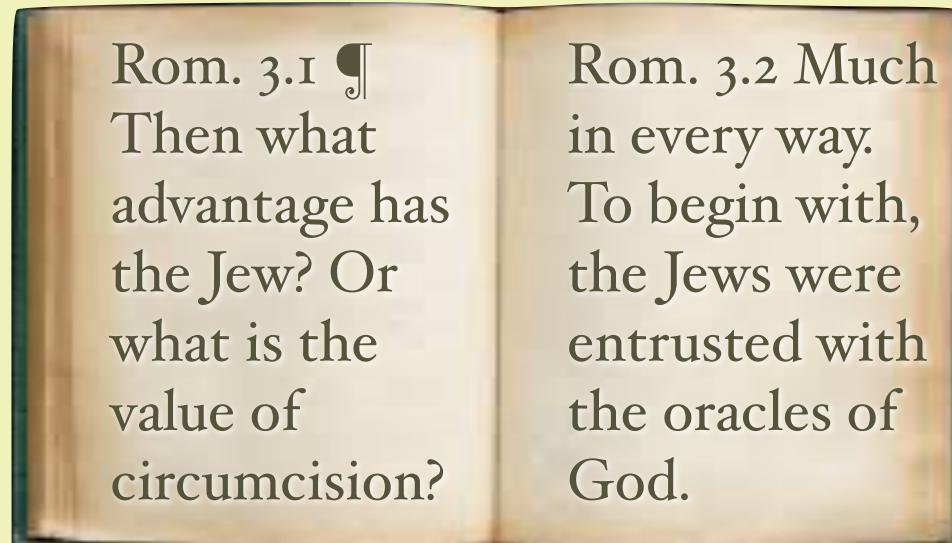


II. Rom 2 - The Righteousness of God revealed by the LAW

A. Paul now reveals that God gave mankind **through the Jews** the **Law** revealing His righteousness as a standard of life in covenant with Him

1. The Law gave Jews a higher standard of morality and a true revelation of God in order to be a light to the nations
2. But now he addresses some self righteous Jews who think they are justified just by being a chosen Jew
3. Paul corrects this misunderstanding in two ways:
 - a. Just knowing the Law and being circumcised is not enough to be righteous especially when one inwardly breaks the very laws of the 10 commandments in their hearts
 - b. God's favor, patience and mercy are meant to bring the Jews and all men to repentance
4. So both the **Law** and the **Laws of Nature** reveal that **God is Righteous and that all** are sinners whether Jew or Gentile

Romans Theme: The Gospel reveals the Righteousness of God

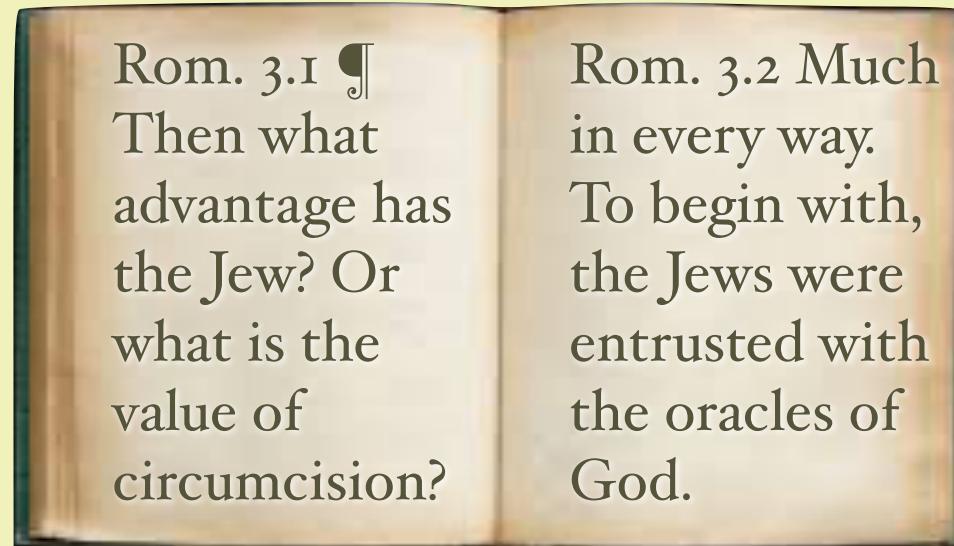


III. Romans 3:1-20 Paul now brings his argument to a logical conclusion that “*all have sinned and come short of the glory of God*”

A. 3:1-8 Paul enters into a rhetorical dialog with some hypothetical Jews who question Paul’s gospel

1. Q1 How can you strip away the value of being a circumcised Jew?
2. Q2 Isn’t God’s covenant faithfulness greater than our unfaithfulness?
3. Q3 ad absurdum: If our unrighteousness reveals God’s Righteousness why would He still inflict His wrath on us?
4. Q4 ad absurdum: Are you saying we should do evil so that His goodness might be magnified even more?

Romans Theme: The Gospel reveals the Righteousness of God

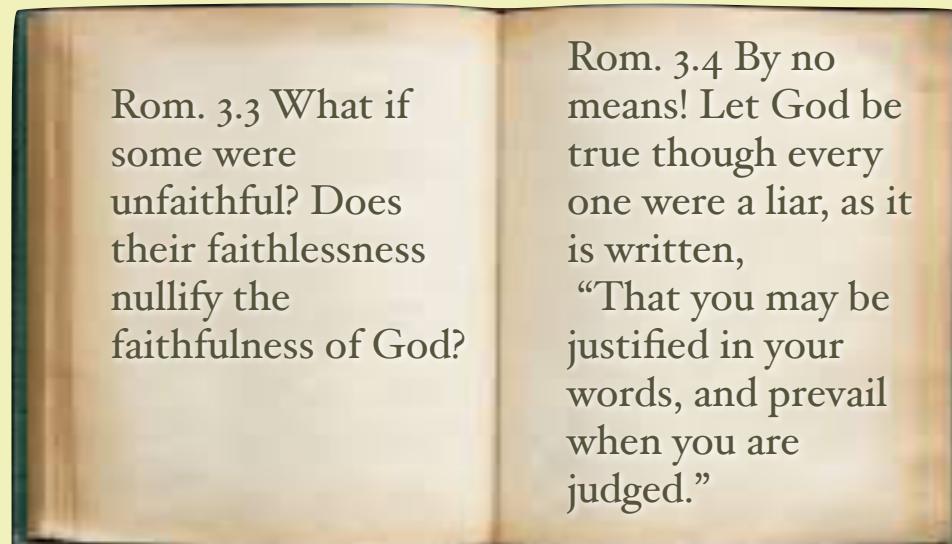


III. Romans 3.1-20 Paul now brings his argument to a logical conclusion that “*all have sinned and come short of the glory of God*”

B. *Rom.3.1-2* Paul “argues” with this ‘hypothetical Jew’ who believes He is “chosen” by God, has responded with the sign of circumcision and keeps the Law and is therefore justified

1. Q: “Are you saying there is no advantage to being a circumcised Jew?”
2. Answer: You have a great advantage as one of those “entrusted” to receive and keep the very “oracles” of God”
3. Paul is conceding that the Jews were not only given a means of righteousness but chosen to obey that Covenant Word (which also includes believing in their Messiah/Savior and testifying of Him before the whole world)

Romans Theme: The Gospel reveals the Righteousness of God

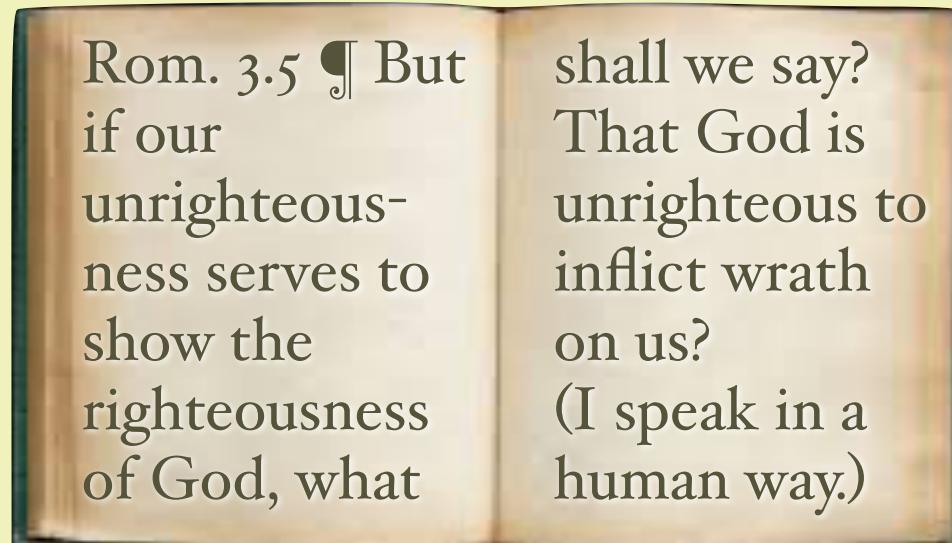


III. Romans 3.1-20 Paul now brings his argument to a logical conclusion that “*all have sinned and come short of the glory of God*”

C. Rom.3.3-4 Paul now “argues” with this ‘hypothetical Jew’ who believes God *must* faithfully keep His Covenant with Israel even when they are unfaithful

1. **Q2:** “Are you saying God breaks His Covenant if a Jew is unfaithful?”
2. **Answer: Never.** God who cannot lie is always faithful to His Covenant Love (Hesed)
3. Paul declares God’s Righteous is faithful and anyone faulting Him is a liar
4. Rather a Jew should be like the righteous David (Ps.51.4) whose desire was to declare God as true and himself a liar whenever his unrighteousness called God’s character into question

Romans Theme: The Gospel reveals the Righteousness of God



III. Romans 3:1-20 Paul now brings his argument to a logical conclusion that “*all have sinned and come short of the glory of God*”

D. Rom.3:5-8 Paul now brings up two absurd questions which he has heard before from Jews criticizing his gospel declaring a righteousness by faith ‘without’ the Law

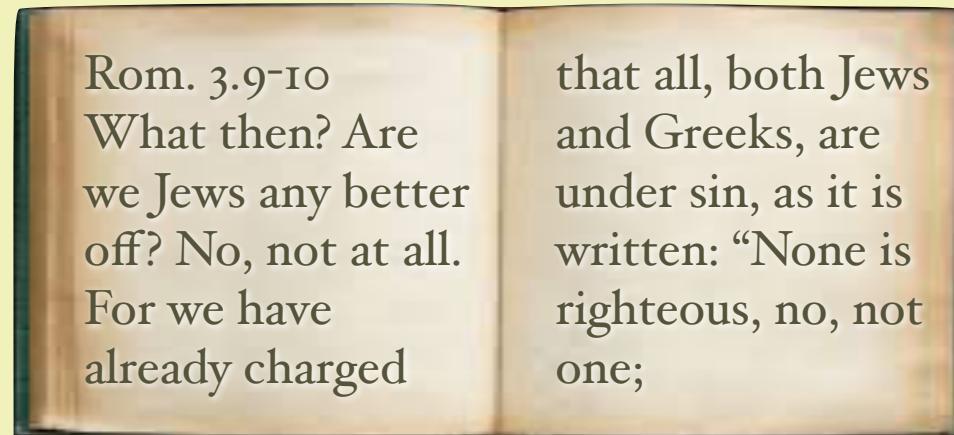
1. **Q3** absurdity of man-centered logic: “So wouldn’t it be unrighteous for God to send his wrath upon us if our unrighteousness magnifies His Righteousness?

2. **Answer:** Paul curses anyone who makes such a claim: “**God forbid!**”. God is Judge exactly because He is always righteous (Straight) and impartial about sin

3. **Q4** absurdity: How can God condemn me if my lies make God look more glorious? Shouldn’t I sin even more so His righteousness might shine with more glory?

4. **Answer:** Anyone is rightly condemned who makes such a libelous statement about God

Romans Theme: The Gospel reveals the Righteousness of God

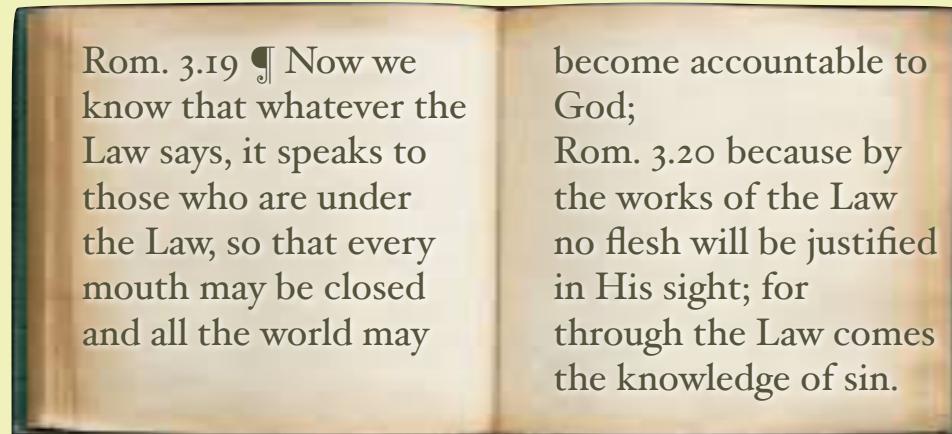


III. Romans 3.1-20 Paul now brings his argument to a logical conclusion that “*all have sinned and come short of the glory of God*”

E. Rom.3.9-18 Paul now shows that God’s Word declares all Jews as sinners deserving Judgment and wrath

1. 3.9 Now Paul levels the playing field placing all mankind “under sin” whether Jew or Gentile
 - a. Paul now provides a paradox: even though Jews have the advantage of hearing the very oracles of God they have no advantage in terms of righteousness because under sin
 - b. Notice Paul doesn’t just say man has committed sins but that mankind is “*under the power of sin*” where sin is known as a powerful force that has bound all men
2. 3.10 the key to Paul’s argument is that it is based upon scripture from Old Testament which condemned the Jews: 1) “*None is righteous, no, not one*” from *Psalm 14.3*
3. 3.11-18 lists more sins: 2) No understanding *Psalm 5:9*; 3) no one seeks God *Psalm.53.2*; 4) all have turned aside *Psalm.53.3*; 5) no one does good - worthless *Psalm 14.1-3*; 6) venomous speech *Ps 140:3*; 7) destructive paths *Psalm 10:7*; 8) swift to violence *Isa 59:7-8*; and 9) no fear of God *Ps 36:1*

Romans Theme: The Gospel reveals the Righteousness of God



III. Romans 3.1-20 Paul now brings his argument to a logical conclusion that “*all have sinned and come short of the glory of God*”

F. *Rom.3.19-20* Paul finally reveals the two vital functions of the LAW

1. 3.19 The LAW speaks to all “*under the Law*” conclusively shutting the mouths of anyone who might think they are righteous and holding everyone *accountable to God*

2. 3.20 The LAW has the redemptive purpose of bringing to us the knowledge of sin to convict our hearts to repent



Paul's Epistle to the Romans

- next time: Rom 3.21-31
- God's Righteousness revealed through Christ Jesus