

## ROMANS 3

1. After Paul introduced himself to the Christians in Rome, he begins the first theme in Romans. What is this theme?

-“All People are Unrighteous Before God.”

2. When did God reveal His anger against sin?

-When He cursed the earth and removed Adam and Eve from the garden.

-When He destroyed the whole world by a flood.

-When He destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah.

-When He punished the rebellious king of Egypt and the Egyptians.

-When He gave His commandments to the Israelites at Mount Sinai.

3. What is the greatest sign that God has revealed His anger against sin?

-When God crucified the Lord Jesus for our sins on the cross.

4. Upon whom was God’s anger for our sin poured out?

-His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

5. Why are people without excuse regarding the truths of God?

-Because God has clearly shown all people.

6. How has God clearly shown all people?

-With the world that God has created.

7. What happens when people reject God?

-Their thinking becomes wrong, and their hearts become dark.

8. Because people reject God, what does God do?

-Because people reject God, God allows them to follow the wicked desires of their own hearts.

-In the second chapter of Romans, we continue the teaching that all people are unrighteous before God.

Let’s read Romans 2:1-3

1-You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge the other, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things.

2-Now we know that God’s judgment against those who do such things is based on truth.

3-So when you, a mere man, pass judgment on them and yet do the same things, do you think you will escape God’s judgment?

-In these verses, what is God teaching us through Paul?

-If we have judged other people, we have already condemned ourselves.

-Who has not judged other people?  
-All of us have judged other people.

-How do we condemn ourselves when we judge others?  
-Because we do the same things in our hearts.

-According to God, is sin only with our flesh?  
-No.  
-According to God, is sin only with our body?  
-No.

-According to God, we can sin on the inside with our hearts even though on the outside our body does nothing.

-Here is what Jesus said:

Matthew 5:28

28-“But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.”

-According to Jesus, even though a man may not commit adultery with his body, he can sin and commit adultery with his heart.

-God judges the heart because it is the heart that controls the flesh.

-God judges the heart because the heart is the real

person.

-According to God, are there big sins and little sins?  
-No.  
-According to God, all sins are big.

-In the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve took only one bite of one fruit.

-Yet, because of one bite from one fruit, all people must die.

-Was that one bite a little sin?  
-No.  
-In God’s eyes, all sins are big and merit death.

-Because God gave the Jews His laws through Moses, the Jews thought that they were without sin.

-Because God gave the Jews His laws through Moses, the Jews thought that God accepted them.

-Because God gave the Jews His laws through Moses, the Jews thought that they were better than the Gentiles.

-If you give a law to people, does this protect them from disobeying the law?  
-No.

-If you give a law to people, does this cause them to

obey that law?

-No.

-If you give a law to people, does this give them strength to obey that law?

-No.

-A law cannot protect you from disobeying it.

-A law cannot cause you to obey it.

-A law cannot give you strength to obey it.

-What is the purpose of a law?

-The purpose of a law is to show people how they must properly live.

-But a law is not responsible for obedience.

-Only people are responsible for obedience.

-For the Christian, where does our obedience come from?

-Jesus Christ.

-The Jews also thought that God rejected the Gentiles because they did not have God's laws.

-Therefore, the Jews were condemning the Gentiles because they did not have God's laws.

-Even though the Jews condemned the Gentiles, would

they escape God's judgment for sin?

-No.

-Why could the Jews not escape God's punishment for sin?

-Because God is very holy, He must punish every sin with death.

-God would punish the Jews the same as the Gentiles because the Jews had done the same things in their hearts.

Let's read Romans 2:4-5

4-Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, tolerance, and patience, not realizing that God's kindness leads you toward repentance?

5-But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God's wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed.

-Do Christians show contempt for the riches of God's kindness, tolerance, and patience?

-Yes.

-Remember this:

-It is God's kindness that has not punished Christians for the sins of our past.

-It is God's tolerance that has not punished Christians for our sins of today.

-It is God's patience that has not punished Christians for our sins of tomorrow.

-In Romans 2:4, we read of God's kindness:

-God's kindness does not push us to repentance.

-God's kindness leads us to repentance.

-God wants us to repent so that we can be saved.

-But God also knows that people must be led, and not pushed.

-Let us also remember these truths about the riches of God:

-To wrong a great man is a great wrong.

-To wrong the one and only great God is the greatest wrong, yet God gives us mercy instead.

-If someone knew all of our sins, would they give us mercy?

-No.

-Yet God knows all our sin—past, present, and future, and gives us mercy instead.

-If someone sins against us, we may not be able to bring them to justice.

-Yet if someone sins against God, God is able to bring them to justice.

-Did you know that all sin is against God?

-How is all sin against God?

-Because God created us without sin.

-It is people who have brought sin to a perfect world which God created.

-God is able to bring all people to justice, yet He gives us mercy instead.

-As mere people, would we show mercy to a worm?

-No.

-Yet God gives us mercy instead.

-We should always remember and never forget how great is the kindness of God.

-Otherwise, we will begin to think that we deserve His kindness.

-We do not deserve God's kindness.

-Rather, we deserve death for having sinned against Him.

-Because God did not immediately punish the Jews for their sins, what did the Jews think?

-They thought that God had forgotten their sins and would not punish them.

-Does God forget sins?

-No.

-God sees every sin, and must punish every sin with death.

-If God does not punish every sin with death, then He would lose His holiness.

-Why does God not immediately punish sin?

-Because God is patient.

-Because God wants people to come to Him.

-Because God wants people to come to Him and repent of their sin.

-What happens when people refuse to repent?

-God's anger builds up.

-For those who refuse to repent, God's anger builds up like water against a dam.

-One day, God's patience will end like a dam that bursts during a great flood, and God's anger will be poured out

on those who refuse to repent.

-Do you remember how it was in the days of Noah?

-God waited 120 years for the people to repent.

-But God's anger rose higher and higher until He decided to judge the whole world by a flood.

Let's read Romans 2:6-11

6-God "will give to each person according to what he has done."

7-To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor, and immortality, he will give eternal life.

8-But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger.

9-There will be trouble and distress for every human being who does evil: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile;

10-but glory, honor, and peace for everyone who does good: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.

11-For God does not show favoritism.

-How does God say that He will judge people?

-According to what they have done.

-In Romans 2:7, we read that God will give eternal life to those who do good.

-In Romans 2:10, we read that God will give glory, honor, and peace to those who do good.

-This was the agreement that God made with Israel at Mount Sinai.

-God told Israel that if they obeyed Him completely, He would bless them.

-Was Israel able to obey God completely?

-No.

-Why can no one obey God completely?

-Because all people are children of Adam and Eve.

-Because all people are born into sin.

-Because sin is more powerful than people.

-Is the Word of God saying here that our good works can give us eternal life?

-No.

-The Word of God is saying that God wants to give eternal life to all who obey Him completely.

-The only problem is that no one can obey God completely.

-Because no one can obey God completely, people must understand that they have sinned, and that God must

somehow judge their sin.

-If God does not judge sin, then God Himself becomes unclean.

-If God does not judge sin, then God Himself is no longer righteous.

-Therefore, God wants to give eternal life, yet He must judge the sin of the people.

-The Jews believed that knowing the law which God gave Moses was enough to make them acceptable to God.

-Does simply knowing the Word of God make us acceptable to God?

-No.

-Even Satan knows the Word of God.

-To be accepted by God, one has to obey the Law completely.

-Did Paul think it was possible for anyone to obey God's Law completely?

-No.

-Did God know that no one could be accepted as righteous by Him?

-Yes.

-Did God know that people would be blind to their sinfulness unless He taught them?

-Yes.

-This is why God gave the law through Moses.

-To teach us that all people are sinners and that we cannot have eternal life by our own goodness.

-Does God love the Jews more than the Gentiles?

-No.

Let's read Romans 2:12-16

12-All who sin apart from the law will also perish apart from the law, and all who sin under the law will be judged by the law.

13-For it is not those who hear the law who are righteous in God's sight, but it is those who obey the law who will be declared righteous.

14-(Indeed, when Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law,

15-since they show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts now accusing, now even defending them.)

16-This will take place on the day when God will judge men's secrets through Jesus Christ, as my gospel declares.

-Who are those who "sin apart from the law"?

-These are Gentiles who did not have the law which God gave to Moses and Israel.

-Who are those who "sin under the law"?

-These are Jews who have been given the law which God gave to Moses and Israel.

-Because the Jews had the law of Moses, they would be judged by God with the law of Moses.

-Because the Gentiles did not have the law of Moses, they could not be judged by God with the law of Moses.

-How would God judge the Gentiles?

-He will judge the Gentiles according to their knowledge of God which He put in their hearts.

-For the Jews, Paul was teaching that the Jews merit condemnation because they rejected God who was made clear to them through the law given to Moses.

-For the Gentiles, Paul was teaching that the Gentiles

merit condemnation because they rejected God who was made clear to them through His creation.

-Before people were taught God's Word, do they know that it is wrong to steal and lie?

-Yes.

-Before people were taught God's Word, do they know that it is wrong to kill another person?

-Yes.

-How did people know this even though they do not have God's Word?

-God put this understanding in the hearts of all people.

-Even though people know what is wrong, do they still do wrong?

-Yes.

-Why do people still do wrong even though they know it is wrong?

-Because sin is more powerful than people.

-Because evil is more powerful than people.

-All those who refuse to believe the Gospel will be judged and condemned by our Lord Jesus Christ.

-Then Paul asked, "Are we Jews better than the

Gentiles?"

-Listen to the answer that God gave through Paul.

Let's read Romans 3:9-10

9-What shall we conclude then? Are we any better? Not at all! We have already made the charge that Jews and Gentiles alike are all under sin.

10-As it is written: "There is no one righteous, not even one."

-Has any Jew or Gentile ever completely obeyed God and never sinned?

-No.

-We have all sinned.

-Is it possible for anyone, except the Lord Jesus, to obey God completely?

-No.

-All Jews and all Gentiles are unrighteous.

-We are all unrighteous before God.

-God alone is righteous.

Let's read Romans 3:19

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.

-If someone was stealing your chickens, and you caught the thief with your chicken in his hand, what could he say to prove he was innocent?

-Nothing.

-This is true of all people before God.

-Why can no one prove that he is not a sinner?

-Because God's law has proven that we all have sinned.

-Although Gentiles do not have God's written law, what do they have?

-The Gentiles have the understanding of God from creation which God has created.

-Even though the Gentiles had the understanding of God from creation, what did they do?

-They turned away from the testimony of creation.

-They disobeyed the inner voice of God's Law.

-Are the Jews any better than the Gentiles?

-No.

-The Jews have the written law and they teach it to

others, but they themselves did not obey it.

-Paul said that every mouth should be silenced.

-This means that no one can say that they are without guilt.

-Does anyone have an excuse for breaking the Law?

-No.

-Everyone is guilty of breaking the Law of God, so all are condemned by God.

Let's read Romans 3:20

20-Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin.

-Of all of the verses in Romans, this is one of the most important.

-This verse is a summary of all that God and Paul have been talking about, and has two parts.

-The first part of Romans 3:20 is this: "No one will be declared righteous by observing the law."

-All of the religions in the world except for true Christianity have a solution for becoming righteous

before God.

-These religions say this:

-If you do what you should do and do not do what you should not do, then you will make yourself righteous before God.

-The only problem is that it is not possible for people to make themselves righteous before God.

-What is the difference between all of the other religions in the world and true Christianity?

-All of the other religions tell you how to make yourself righteous before God.

-Only true Christianity tells you that you can never make yourself righteous before God.

-This is the truth which Romans 3:20 is telling us.

-You can try and observe all of the laws in the world, but you will never make yourself righteous before God.

-This is because God alone can make us righteous before Him.

-The second part of Romans 3:20 is this:

-“Rather, through the law we become conscious of sin.”

-What is the second part of this verse telling us?

-That God gave Israel laws to show them their sin.

-That God gave all people laws to show them their sin.

-If you cannot see your sin, will you ask God to save you?

-No.

-Here is an illustration:

-A man is sick, but he does not know it.

-Will the man go to the doctor?

-No.

-Why not?

-Because he does not know that he is sick.

-Why did God give us His laws?

-So we could see our sickness, and go to the Doctor, Jesus Christ.

-God gave us His laws so that we could see our sin, and run to Jesus to be saved.

-Therefore, Romans 3:20 is God’s and Paul’s conclusion that all people are unrighteous before God.