

Title: All Under Sin and Accountable to God

Passage: Romans 3:1-20

Summary:

Romans Chapter 3

- Addresses 3 objections
 - Is there any value to being a Jew?
 - Does Jewish unfaithfulness nullify God's faithfulness?
 - Are we doing God a favor with our sin by showing His faithfulness?
- Response: Humankind is Radically Depraved
- Seven effects of sin (part 1):
 - Our legal standing
 - "None is righteous, no, not one;"
 - Our minds have been effected by sin
 - "no one understands;"
 - Our motives
 - "no one seeks for God."

Key Truths:

- We are all captives under sin and cannot save ourselves. We all need a Redeemer to take us out of sin.
- God's will for your life is holiness. Pursue it on a daily basis and leave the results to Him.
- Everyone is a citizen in one of two worlds: 1) under sin, or 2) under grace

Possible Discussion Questions:

- What point(s) in the sermon did the Lord most impress upon you?
 - How do you feel when the Bible describes you as standing guilty before God?
 - For what are we accountable to God?
 - What misinformation about God or sin have you believed at one point in your life?
 - What next steps will you take in response to the truths you have been exposed to?
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Introduction

Many people die due to misdiagnosis

- Likewise, our perceptions may be wrong if don't know what is really happening.

In Romans, we see an accurate diagnosis of our hearts and our world.

- Every area of our lives is infected with sin.
- Every heart is darkened by sin.

Passage:

Romans 3:1-20

Then what advantage has the Jew? Or what is the value of circumcision? Much in every way. To begin with, the Jews were entrusted with the oracles of God. What if some were unfaithful? Does their faithlessness nullify the faithfulness of God? By no means! Let God be true though every one were a liar, as it is written,

"That you may be justified in your words,
and prevail when you are judged."

But if our unrighteousness serves to show the righteousness of God, what shall we say? That God is unrighteous to inflict wrath on us? (I speak in a human way.) By no means! For then how could God judge the world? But if through my lie God's truth abounds to his glory, why am I still being condemned as a sinner? And why not do evil that good may come?—as some people slanderously charge us with saying. Their condemnation is just.

No One Is Righteous

What then? Are we Jews any better off? No, not at all. For we have already charged that all, both Jews and Greeks, are under sin, as it is written:

"None is righteous, no, not one;
no one understands;
no one seeks for God.

All have turned aside; together they have become worthless;
no one does good,
not even one."

"Their throat is an open grave;
they use their tongues to deceive."

"The venom of asps is under their lips."

"Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness."

"Their feet are swift to shed blood;
in their paths are ruin and misery,
and the way of peace they have not known."

"There is no fear of God before their eyes."

Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

Context of Passage

Romans Chapter 1

- consequences of rejecting the knowledge of God.
 - Temptation: we prone to think we are better than such as those who have sinned as described.

Romans Chapter 2

- even good moral behavior is still guilty of sin and doomed.
 - Religious people are still lost.
- Being a true Jew is about being circumcised from the heart
 - Internal heart has been given to the Lord.

Romans Chapter 3

- Addresses 3 objections
 - Is there any value to being a Jew?
 - Does Jewish unfaithfulness nullify God's faithfulness?
 - Are we doing God a favor with our sin by showing His faithfulness?

I. IS THERE ANY VALUE TO BEING A JEW?

- Yes.

Romans 3:1

Then what advantage has the Jew? Or what is the value of circumcision?

- there is value as God has entrusted His oracles to these people.
- Is there any value in being conservative?
 - While still lost and doomed, the general principles in God's Word provide good general results.
 - Ex: How the Western world was deeply impacted by the Bible, which resulted in many good things (ex: schools, hospitals, etc)

II. DOES JEWISH UNFAITHFULNESS NULLIFY GOD'S FAITHFULNESS?

- No.

Romans 3:3-4

What if some were unfaithful? Does their faithlessness nullify the faithfulness of God? By no means! Let God be true though every one were a liar, as it is written, "That you may be justified in your words, and prevail when you are judged."

- Sin is not to be blamed on God but rather our sin.
- Despite one's failure to believe, God's purposes still advances.
- When we fail due to our own sin, we should not blame God.

1 Corinthians 10:13

No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

III. ARE WE DOING GOD A FAVOR WITH OUR SIN BY SHOWING HIS FAITHFULNESS?

- No.
 - Two scenarios discussed in passage:

Romans 3:5-6

But if our unrighteousness serves to show the righteousness of God, what shall we say? That God is unrighteous to inflict wrath on us? (I speak in a human way.) By no means! For then how could God judge the world?

- unrighteousness enhancing God's righteousness is merely a human argument.

Romans 3:7-8

But if through my lie God's truth abounds to his glory, why am I still being condemned as a sinner? And why not do evil that good may come?—as some people slanderously charge us with saying. Their condemnation is just.

Romans 6:1

What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound?

- We should never excuse our sin to see what good would come out of it.
- Remember that God hates evil.
 - Never put God to the test.
 - You are never doing God a favor by sinning.

- God's will for your life is holiness.
 - Pursue it on a daily basis and leave the results to Him.
- God's sovereignty and Human free will
 - Analogy: both are important such as each one is a different wing of a plane. If go too much on one side or the other (human responsibility or fatalism), the plane will crash. Must have balance between the two truths.

RESPONSE TO OBJECTIONS: ALL UNDER SIN

Romans 3:9

What then? Are we Jews any better off? No, not at all. For we have already charged that all, both Jews and Greeks, are under sin,

all under sin

- Everyone is a citizen in one of two worlds: 1) under sin, or 2) under grace
 - 1) under sin
 - If a non-believer, legally bound by sin.
 - 2) under grace
 - If a Christian, have legally been justified

Galatians 3:22

But the Scripture imprisoned everything under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.

- "Imprisoned everything under sin"
 - We are all captives under sin.
 - Cannot save themselves.
 - We all need a redeemer to take us out of sin.
 - Only God can do this.
 - Contrast: Marxism believes the issue is lack of distribution of wealth. So, need to centralize and redistribute wealth to a ll.
 - Contrast: Lack of knowledge. So, need to build up universities and programs to educate the people.
- Only in Christ can we be saved and redeemed.

- Not in any politician or education.
 - Neither will solve the problems of the world.

HUMANKIND IS RADICALLY DEPRAVED

- all are equally lost.
 - Our legal condition is the same: lost.
 - Analogy: 3 people are to swim to Japan from Hawaii (novice, decent, expert). Regardless of skill, they all drown.
- compilation of different Old Testament passages:

Romans 3:10-17

as it is written:

***“None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands;
no one seeks for God.***

***All have turned aside; together they have become worthless;
no one does good,
not even one.”***

***“Their throat is an open grave;
they use their tongues to deceive.”***

“The venom of asps is under their lips.”

“Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness.”

***“Their feet are swift to shed blood;
in their paths are ruin and misery,
and the way of peace they have not known.”***

Seven effects of sin:

- Our legal standing
 - “None is righteous, no, not one;”
 - We are guilty and condemned
- Our minds have been effected by sin (v.11)
 - “no one understands;”
 - On our own, we do not understand God’s truth
- Our motives
 - “no one seeks for God.”

- Motive are really seeking relief from their guilt. Actually looking for the benefits of God rather than His actual presence.
 - But what about Matthew 6 and 7 (seek first the kingdom of God)
 - These are addressed to believers.
- No one seeks Christ unless God has changed their heart.
 - But what about evangelists saying “come and let Jesus in”? That is a distortion of Scripture. You do not become a Christian because you are so good and decided?

John 6:44

No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day.

John 6:65

And he said, “This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father.”

- We cannot seek or come to God unless God first chooses to give us new life and draws us to Him.

If no one is righteous,
then no one understands,
then no one seeks after God.

RESPONSE

If a Christian, be filled with grace and live in worship of God

- the only thing we are entitled to is death.
- Only by God’s grace we are saved, be thankful and be joyful in Jesus.

Philippians 4:4-5

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone.

The Lord is at hand;

Romans 12:1

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.