

2023/11/05

GOOD MORNING OIC.

Now we read how the Apostle Paul continues the subject of the Jews not having a right standing with God. Quoting from The Expositors Bible Commentary (EBC):

“Paul continues with the subject of the guilt of the Jew, but now with an emphasis on the element of unbelief and on a sophisticated claim of immunity from divine judgment. His opening question reflects a devastating attack: What advantage is there in being a circumcised Jew? Paul implies that there are many such advantages, but he proceeds no further than the first one. The reader is kept waiting a long time for any resumption, but eventually the full list is provided ( Romans 9:4-5).”

Last Sunday I brought out how the Letter to the Romans is the New Testament declaration that only Christians are *spiritual Jews, God's Chosen people* regardless of race or previous religion. The physical mark of circumcision in the body means nothing to God for Salvation. He requires a circumcised heart *only available* through faith in Christ Jesus. Bear with me for more on the Jews in Romans 9 ,as noted in the Expositor's Bible Commentary quotation.

In (Romans 3.2) Paul gives the Jews the credit due them for faithfully keeping the Holy Scriptures. History shows that they stored or kept the Scriptures in caves and safe storage for future generations. Therefore Paul's statement: *Chiefly because the oracles of God were entrusted to them.* But, this does not change their eternal destiny, which is dependent only upon living by *faith to faith* in Jesus Christ's sacrifice which buys anyone's forgiveness with God. **Now he brings out the details of the Jews' unbelief in those very Oracles of God which they kept.**

**Read R.v.3** I am noting **TAKEAWAY#1** as my next exposition or meaning in the writer's thinking to be this : **God's WORD is immutable, always TRUTH, as unchangeable as He is! People don't have to believe in it for IT TO HAVE POWER. But that POWER is only affected or released into the lives of people WHO BELIEVE IT.**

Thus, in v.3 *Would their unbelief nullify the faithfulness of God?* And In v.4, *God forbid! Let God be true, and every man a liar. As it is written:*

*That You may be justified in Your words, and may prevail in Your judging.* From ( Psalm 51.4 ).

A sinful person might think to excuse their sin with this kind of reasoning that Paul describes in verses Romans 3.5-8 :

verse 5 *But if our unrighteousness demonstrates the righteousness of God, what shall we say? Is God unrighteous in taking vengeance? (I am speaking in human terms.)* This wrong reasoning may be worded as : **My sins make God look good! His righteousness is seen more clearly and demonstrated to the whole world better when I sin. So He is unfair, that is unrighteous, to take vengeance on me for these sins!** NOTE how Paul felt so uncomfortable even writing this line referring to God being “unrighteous.” So, Paul says emphatically as a *disclaimer* like manufacturers put at the end of many terms in a sales agreement these days, thus, *I am speaking in human terms.* He definitely means like *sinful* mankind. This being an oxymoron , or nonsense statement to Paul: God being accused of *unrighteous behavior* is further stated with great emotion in v.6 *God forbid! Or By No Means.* (Mounce) or as Americans like to say “No Way!” Of course, how could an “unrighteous God “*judge the world?(v.6)*

**R.v.7** Paul repeats the oxymoron with the new word “*lie.*” The power of this word is very theological in the spirit world. The erroneous idea that “My unrighteous behavior” should be alright with God is a sinful man against a Holy God. But, as the Bible tells us that when Jesus spoke to the Pharisees who were opposing Him in ( John 8.44) :*You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies.* Therefore, claiming that *by My lie God's truthfulness abounds to His glory* is actually Satan , the father of lies, against the Holy God. Asking *Why am I still being condemned as a sinner?* Is pleading for Satan, the father of lies, to not be condemned. A similar argument as this one could be made for the devil himself! Satan's evil clearly makes God's Holy Righteous Nature more apparent to the whole world but **It Stands Written** in (Revelation 20.10) *And the devil who had deceived them was hurled into the lake of fire and burning brimstone (sulfur), where the beast (Antichrist) and false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night, forever and ever.*

**In verse .8,** the argument against this recent nonsense statement to attribute *unrighteousness to God* is brought to a distinct conclusion. “*Why not rather say { In other words} “Let us do evil that good may come {of it}*”

*as we are slanderously accused and as some claim that we say? Their condemnation is just.”*

Paul makes no hesitation to condemn Jews or anyone who pursues such blasphemous reasonings against God to *judge Him* as unrighteous and support the devil as on the side of righteousness.

Romans 3.9-20 Declares the Unrighteousness of Mankind &

Romans 3.21-31 Declares Justification by Faith. I am attempting to end today's message at Romans 3.24 to deal correctly in exposition of the detail that the Holy Spirit gave us through the oratory skills of the Apostle Paul.

Now he describes the totally reprobate condition of all men, Jew and Gentile, or simply, **There Is None Righteous.**

First and very vitally he uses the word **“we”** when he discusses the total depravity of Mankind.

*3.9 What then? Are we better than they?*

The Christian has no claim, in himself, of being better than any sinner. This includes the outwardly despicable Gentile pagans nor the inwardly hypocritical Jews. Paul wanted all the righteousness that he displayed to be seen clearly as that which he had received as the gift of God from *faith to faith*.

**R.v.10-18** Paul begins here with an important change to the wordings of the Scriptures from the Psalms, the Proverbs and Isaiah declaring Mankind's total depravity. Here Paul uses the word “righteous” in *“There is no one **righteous**, not even one.”* in (Romans 3.10) INSTEAD of *“there is none who does good”* in Psalm 14.1 and Psalm 53.1. The word “righteous” emphasizes a man's position before God more than “does good” as in (Psalm 14.1), (Psalm 53.1).

**TAKEAWAY #2 Holy Spirit used Paul's astute knowledge as a former Pharisee to emphasize a man's position before God to de-emphasize works of men to keep the Law.** Quoting from The Expositors Bible Commentary (EBC): “The present list serves a double purpose: (1) to affirm the universality of sin in the human family, and (2) to assert its ramifications in every facet of human existence. *“There is no one righteous, not even one.”* “

Conviction of position, or right standing with God has an appeal to all men's conception of reality, their Universal perception. The Bible rejects modern psychologists and teachers who claim man has

goodness inside him. Because man is made in the *image of God* there are attributes which may look something *like righteousness*; but these are external.

A single verse from ( Jeremiah 17.9 ) shows that men's hearts, the inner man, fits Paul's summation of Man's total depravity:

*The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?* The heart of man beneath the externals is also seen by God. In ( Psalm 51.6 ) King David's psalm of repentance as a murderer, the Holy Spirit gave him insight to what God wants, *You desire truth in the inward parts, and in the hidden part You make me to know wisdom.*

**R. Romans 3.19** We saw in Romans 1-2 how men, Jew or Gentile, are for their sins without excuse before the Holy God.

Paul now tries to get the focus of condemnation for those under the Law. Paul uses under the Law, that is the Jew; but makes it clear that *all the world is accountable to God*. The Law means primarily the Ten Commandments given via Moses to Israelites escaping Egypt. But, the Word of God declares that answer to (Jeremiah 17.9) question, *who can know it*. **God knows it** for all Mankind, AND for each individual person as well. Mankind as illustrated in (Romans 3.10-18) thus holds all Mankind, the world, accountable before the Throne of God, for their sins.

**R.20** *Therefore by the works of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.*

*Therefore.....*

**No flesh, human being, will be made right or justified in God's sight by anything they ever did, or will do!!!**

Paul broadens the Law to include “good deeds” by Gentiles not familiar with the Law as we saw back in Roman 2. This is a perfect dovetail or segue to why all men should desire to be Christians:

### **Righteousness Through Faith**

R.21 *But now, apart from the law, the righteousness of God is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets.* There are actually thousands of Older Testament verses by the Prophets that point to Jesus as the Savior of the World, both Jew and Gentile. Isaiah has the clearest in my recollection. So let's read together:

ISAIH 53.1-5 /NASB

*Who has believed our report?*

*And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?*

*2 For He grew up before Him like a tender shoot,*

*And like a root out of dry ground;*

*He has no stately form or majesty*

*That we would look at Him,*

*Nor an appearance that we would take pleasure in Him.*

*3 He was despised and abandoned by men,*

*A man of great pain and familiar with sickness;*

*And like one from whom people hide their faces,*

*He was despised, and we had no regard for Him.*

*4 However, it was our sicknesses that He Himself bore,*

*And our pains that He carried;*

*Yet we ourselves assumed that He had been afflicted,*

*Struck down by God, and humiliated.*

*5 But He was pierced for our offenses,*

*He was crushed for our wrongdoings;*

*The punishment for our well-being was laid upon Him,*

*And by His wounds we are healed.*

**It's ALL there! Or I should say HE is all there in Isaiah 53**

**53.2 not handsome in appearance, plain**

**.3 Despised ( for His preaching and miracles) and abandoned by Men , even His Disciples at Gethsemane**

**.4 Judged as a sinner on The Cross**

**.5 Crushed for us as He took our punishment on His Cross**

**.6 And by His wounds we are healed**

God's righteousness affects or releases power in human life only "through faith in Jesus Christ." The words "we are healed" in Isaiah 53.6 is only for **WE who believe in Him, Jesus.**

**TAKEAWAY #3 God's unconditional love, has conditions. Given FREELY to sinners but salvation has the condition of Believing. That too is a GIFT but we must accept that GIFT.** As clear in (Ephesians 2.8 NASB )

*For **by** grace you have been saved through **faith**; and this is not of yourselves, it is the gift of God;*

*Reading v. 22 This righteousness of God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all and upon all who believe, for there is no distinction. Paul patiently condemned sin and dissected the only two culture groups in the whole world, Jews and Gentiles, in Romans Chapters 1-3.21. Now, the Good News of Jesus is needed by these two groups, summed up means all the world. Paul gives God's solution for all. Jesus His Only Son. ...Thus *for there is no distinction*, between Jews and Gentiles, to receive God's righteousness by faith in Jesus Christ.*

*23 For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God, 24 being justified freely by His grace (unmerited favor} through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,....*

**Similarly from Romans Chapters 1-2, "all have sinned" and the emphasis on justified freely by God's {unmerited favor } with the word "freely" shows God's attitude and desire for the sinner. God wants more to forgive you, than you want to sin, if you please!**

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*NOW..Let us pray....*

## REFERENCES

{....} Pastor Bruce's paraphrase of Scripture

EBC- Expositor's Bible Commentary (Abridged Edition): New Testament  
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