

The Epistle To The Romans (Chapter Three)

OBJECTIVES IN STUDYING THIS CHAPTER

- 1) To understand the particulars of God's righteousness: grace, redemption, propitiation, faith in Jesus, and justification
- 2) To see the difference between a law of works and the law of faith

SUMMARY

As Paul continues to demonstrate the Jews' need of salvation, he proceeds to answer questions that he envisions protesting Jews might ask. He explains the advantage of being a Jew, the faithfulness of God in spite of the Jews' unbelief, and the right of God to condemn the unrighteousness of man even though it magnifies His Own righteousness (vv. **1-8**). Though the Jews had the advantage of possessing the oracles of God, Paul still concludes that the Jews as well as the Gentiles are in sin and proves his conclusion by listing a series of Old Testament scriptures that speaks to those under the Law (the Jews) as sinners (vv. **9-19**). His conclusion: a law (like the Law of Moses) could not save, but only reveal the knowledge of sin; a point he will elaborate upon in chapter seven (v. **20**). Paul now carefully begins to explain the "good news" of God's plan of salvation. Apart from law, yet witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, God's way of making man right through faith in Jesus Christ is now made clear, and made available to all who believe, whether Jew or Greek, for all have sinned (vv. **21-23**). This justification of man is explained in terms of redemption, made possible through the blood of Christ, and offered to those who have faith in Christ. It also demonstrates how God can be both "just" (who takes seriously the sins of mankind) and "a justifier" (who is able to forgive sinners). God is able to do this by offering Christ's blood as a propitiation to those who have faith (vv. **24-26**). This "justification" is a gift of God's grace to those who have faith, which prevents anyone from boasting as though they through the works of a law deserved it (vv. **27-30**). This does not void the need for law, but rather meets the requirement of law (v. **31**).

OUTLINE OF CHAPTER 3

I. THE JEWS' NEED OF SALVATION (1-20)

A. THE JEWISH ADVANTAGE (1-2)

1. In many respects (**1**)
2. Especially in having the "Oracles of God" (**2**)

B. ANSWERS TO POSSIBLE OBJECTIONS (3-8)

1. Unbelieving Jews will not make the faithfulness of God without effect (**3-4**)
2. God is right to be angry, even if "unrighteousness" demonstrates His Own righteousness (**5-6**)
3. Though sin might increase God's truth and give Him glory, people will still be judged for their sins (**7-8**)

C. THE JEWS INDICTED AS SINNERS BY THEIR OWN SCRIPTURES (9-20)

1. Despite advantages, Jews like Greeks are under sin (**9**)
2. Biblical proof (**10-18**)
3. Application and conclusion (**19-20**)
 - a. The Law condemns all, especially to whom it was given (**19**)
 - b. Law cannot justify, but only reveal the knowledge of sin (**20**)

II. THE PROVISION: JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH (21-31)

A. GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS REVEALED (21-23)

1. Apart from law, but witnessed by the Law (21)
2. A righteousness through faith in Jesus (22a)
3. For all who believe, for all have sinned (22b-23)

B. GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS EXPLAINED (24-26)

1. Justification by grace through redemption in Christ (24)
2. Jesus' blood offered by God as a propitiation (covering) through faith (25a)
3. This demonstrates God's righteousness toward the one who has faith in Jesus (25b-26)

C. IMPLICATIONS OF GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS (27-31)

1. Boasting on man's part is excluded (27a)
2. For justification is based on faith, not deeds of law (27b-28)
3. God is God of Jews and Gentiles, for He justifies both by faith (29-30)
4. This does not void the need for law, but rather meets the requirements of law (31)

KEY WORDS IN ROMANS CHAPTER 3

redemption - "a releasing, a **payment** for a **ransom**; refers to being released from the guilt of sin by the blood of Christ"

justified - "a legal term, indicating a verdict of '**not guilty**'; in regards to sin, he who is justified is not held accountable for his past sins"

propitiation - "used to refer to an **offering designed to appease**; God offers the blood of Christ to appease for man's sins"

sin - "a **missing of the mark**" (Ro 3:23) -- "a **breaking of the law**" (1 Jn 3:4) **transgression**.

REVIEW QUESTIONS FOR THE CHAPTER

1) List the main points of this chapter

- The Jews' Need Of Salvation (1-20)
- The Provision: Justification By Faith (21-31)

2) What advantage was there in being a Jew? (2)

- They possessed the revealed oracles of God. God's chosen.

3) What comes through law? (20)

- The knowledge of sin but not salvation.

4) What came apart from law? (21)

- The righteousness of God (God's way of justifying sinful man)/ Salvation by grace.

5) Who has sinned? (23)

- All have sinned

6) What is the gift of God's grace? (24)

- Being justified through the redemption (price paid) that is in Christ Jesus

7) How is God appeased for our sins? (25)

- Through the blood of Jesus Christ

8) How does man receive justification from God? (28)

- By faith: not deeds of the flesh.

9) How does "justification by faith" relate to the principle of law? (31)

- It does not void the need for law, but rather supports the demands of the law. The law teaches us what is righteous but cannot save us through the deeds of the flesh (practices of the law).