

## EXPOSITION OF ROMANS

### Message #11

### Romans 3:1-8

We live in a world that loves to debate....this is especially true when it comes to man's goodness versus God's righteousness.

The problem with most of humanity is they just do not realize how holy and how righteous God really is. Somehow, fallen humanity gets all confused into thinking and believing that their works, their religion and their own human effort are earning a status that is equal to the righteousness and holiness of God.

### **GOD IS PERFECTLY JUST IN HIS CONDEMNATION OF ALL RELIGIOUS AND NONRELIGIOUS PEOPLE.**

This text will show that God has a perfect right to sentence everyone to hell, no matter who they are, no matter how religious they are. If you are going to escape God's wrath, you must cast all of your faith on Jesus Christ to save you from your sins.

### **REASON #1 – Because condemnation is consistent with God's Word. 3:1-2**

The word “oracles” has been the subject of much debate by Biblical scholars. The Greek word literally means “words or utterances.” Paul's point here is that the Jews had a great advantage in that they had the very words and the very utterances of the Living God.

In the original text, the article “the” appears before “oracles,” literally reading “the oracles of the God.” Some have suggested that this refers to the entire Old Testament which was given to the Jews. Some suggest it refers to special revelations and promises that God gave to Israel. Some suggest it refers specifically to Messianic promises.

It seems to me we are on very safe ground if we let the term stand for the entire Old Testament which contains special revelations and Messianic promises.

Here is Paul's contextual point - **the Jew has a great advantage in being able to see that he cannot measure up to the holiness of God because he has the entire Old Testament which clearly testifies of his guilty condition before God.**

For example:

**There is the testimony of Job:** “But how can a man be in the right before God?” ... “Though I am righteous, my mouth will condemn me; though I am guiltless, He will declare me guilty” (Job 9:2, 20).

**There is the testimony of David:** “God has looked down from heaven upon the sons of men to see if there is anyone who understands, who seeks after God. Everyone of them has turned aside; together they have become corrupt; there is no one who does good, not even one” (Psalm 53:2-3).

**There is the testimony of Isaiah** : “All of us like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way: But the LORD has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him” (Isaiah 53:6).

**There is the testimony of Jeremiah** : “ The heart is more deceitful than all else and is desperately sick; who can understand it” (Jeremiah 17:9)?

The Word of God seals the guilt of every human being. No Jew will ever be able to stand before God and argue with this point, for the Scriptures clearly establish before the Living God that all are guilty.

**REASON #2** – Condemnation is consistent with God’s faithfulness . **3:3-4**

Most people ask the wrong question - How can a loving God send people to hell? The right question is - How can a holy God permit any sinful human to enter His heaven?

If God were perfectly faithful to Himself, He would condemn the whole world forever because we have all rebelled against Him.

Now the religious Jew wants to argue with God on this point. God has made certain promises to the Jew - a land , a king and a kingdom .

The big question of **verse 3** is this - is it possible for the sinful man to make a liar out of God? If all the Jews intentionally rejected God, He cannot give them a promise land, a king and a kingdom. Would that then make God a liar ?

**Answer #1** - God is just in condemning everyone. **3:4a**

Every human being who stands before God deserves hell. God would be perfectly just in sending every human being to hell. God’s Word condemns every man. God is true and just in condemning all of mankind. Every person has sinned and fallen short of the glory of God and if he will not admit it, he is a liar who deserves condemnation and will justly receive it.

**Answer #2** - God is merciful in saving anyone. **3:4b**

In this text Paul quotes David in Psalm 51:4. David is standing before God admitting the guilt of his sin with Bathsheba. The essence of what David is saying is this - God is perfectly just in condemning me, but I am relying totally upon His mercy to save me. The only way I may prevail at His judgment is by His merciful justification .

Look carefully at this point - God, in His own faithfulness can condemn everyone. He would be faithful and just if He were to permit every human being to go to hell. It is His great mercy that saves people and gives them justification.

**REASON #3** – Condemnation is consistent with God’s righteousness . **3:5-8**

**Proof #1** - God’s righteousness is established by our unrighteousness . **3:5**

Every time we sin, we admit we are not good enough to measure up to God’s righteous, holy standard. Here is one reason why God permits sin - it establishes His righteousness. God is not unrighteous to inflict wrath upon the whole world because our own unrighteousness proves we deserve God’s wrath. **It is not our sin that really demonstrates the righteousness of God; it is His judgment against our sin that demonstrates His righteousness.**

**Proof #2** - God’s righteousness is the basis for our judgment . **3:6**

The Greek word for “righteousness” (δικαιοσύνη) in **verse 5**, is one that refers to God’s perfect Divine standard. G. Abbott-Smith says it means conformity to Divine will, purpose, thought and action (*Greek Lexicon*, p. 116).

What we are up against in order to go to Heaven is the Holy standard of God. One may look pretty good against other religious people , but match ourselves up against God’s standards and we don’t come close .

**Proof #3** - God’s righteousness does not ever establish our innocence . **3:7-8**

God’s righteousness establishes that we are guilty and deserve His just condemnation. People actually want to argue with God about their own goodness, but this is a case they are going to lose. Some are so twisted in their thinking that they think in two heretical ways:

**(Heretical Thought #1)** - If my sin establishes God’s righteousness, how can I be judged as a condemned sinner ? **3:7**

Paul is saying if the truth of God is that my sin actually proves that God is righteous, then why am I not innocent, why does the Word of God say I am guilty when in all reality my sinfulness has a good purpose in establishing God’s glory? Why does the Bible continue to judge us as a sinner if, in fact, we are demonstrating the righteousness of God? The truth of the Bible says we are all condemned sinners. Any person who sees it differently, is not speaking the truth . of God. The fact is, we are not innocent before God and we are condemned sinners.

Let me illustrate the point. I know very little about automotive engines. One time a guy temporarily convinced me to tackle a project which got me in way over my head. So I stopped and said I need to take this to someone who knows what they are doing. My lack of expertise in the automotive realm actually proves that there is a great need for mechanics who know what they are doing. My lack proves their need. Now suppose I would have said, “I’ll just keep on taking more parts off this engine because I want to show the mechanic how ignorant I truly am. I’ll just keep messing this up so I can help prove how needed he is.” You would say that is foolish. If you are just messing things up to show how dumb you are just so you can prove how valuable the mechanic is, you will pay a very expensive price.

So it is with our sin. It is true that our sin establishes that God is righteousness, but we are absolutely foolish if we think that more and more of our sin actually helps God. The truth is more and more sin will ruin us and bring us to greater condemnation. The cost will be high.

**(Heretical Thought #2)** - If my sin establishes God's righteousness, then evil is good. **3:8**

In fact, Paul says the logical conclusion of heretical thinking is - sin is so good because it establishes the righteousness of God, so perhaps we had better devote ourselves to it.

Man will do anything - he will reason any way in order to rationalize (rational lies) away the doctrine of condemnation.

God is perfectly just if He condemns all religious people.

God is perfectly just if He winds up condemning all people, period.

The great practical lesson is this - the more we know about God the more we know about our guilt. The more we admit our guilt the more we recognize God's grace.

God wants us to come to a point in which we will admit we are hopelessly lost and, in coming to that realization, trust totally in Jesus Christ.

Out of His grace and mercy, He sent Jesus Christ to make the total payment we could not make. It is not of our religious works. If we will believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, we will be saved from all our sin.