
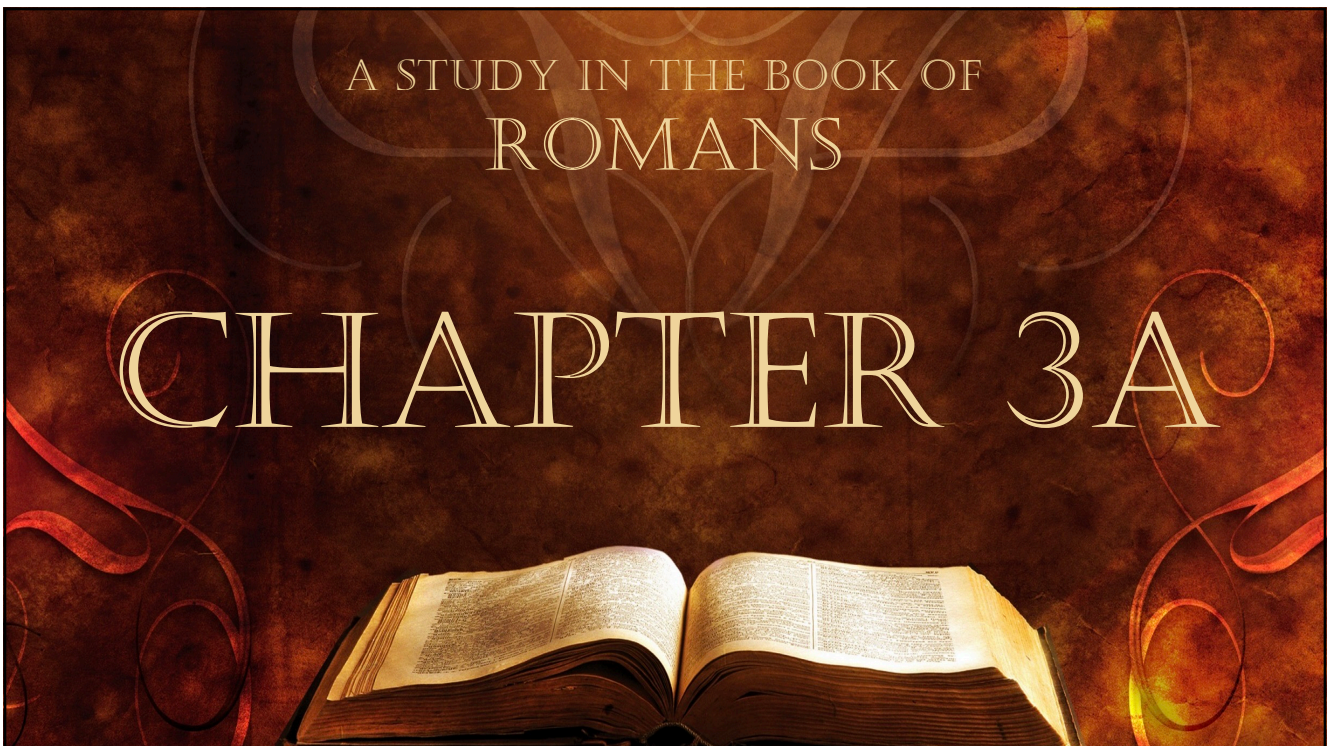


NT 2731 The Book of Romans
Chapters 1 – 8

 **MID-AMERICA**
SEMINARY • COLLEGE

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A STUDY IN THE BOOK OF
ROMANS

CHAPTER 3A

Chapter 3

Paul uses Scripture to undergird his argument (indictment) of Jews and Gentiles. He uses the rabbinic method of a *charuz* (string of pearls) as he presents 13 charges for the universal sinfulness of mankind.

- Verse 10 1. There is no righteous person, not even one; **ROMANS ROAD VERSE 1**
- Verse 11 2. There is no one who understands,
- Verse 11 3. There is no one who seeks out God;
- Verse 12 4. They have all turned aside, together they have become corrupt;
- Verse 12 5. There is no one who does good, There is not even one."
- Verse 13 6. Their throat is an open grave,
- Verse 13 7. With their tongues they keep deceiving,"
- Verse 13 8. "The venom of asps is under their lips";
- Verse 14 9. "Their mouth is full of cursing and bitterness";
- Verse 15 10. "Their feet are swift to shed blood,
- Verse 16 11. Destruction and misery are in their paths,
- Verse 17 12. And they have not known the way of peace."
- Verse 18 13. "There is no fear of God before their eyes."

Chapter 3

Verse 12- *They have all turned aside, together they have become corrupt; There is no one who does good, There is not even one."*

all turned aside- With all the religions (man reaching to God) in the world, how can it be that Paul says that no one seeks after God or that they have turned aside- *ek* (from) + *klino* (decline) = to deviate down, to slide off the track or to flee.

become corrupt- worthless, spoiled (*achreios*). Used of the servant who hid his talent in the ground.

no one who does good- Man chooses to act against God.

Chapter 3

Verse 13- *“Their throat is an open grave, With their tongues they keep deceiving,” “The venom of asps is under their lips”;*

Their throat is an open grave- Paul quotes Psalm 5:9-

*For there is nothing trustworthy in their mouth; Their inward part is destruction itself. **Their throat is an open grave;***

He begins by writing about man’s throat, mouth, and lips. An open grave is associated with an unbelievable stench. The things that come from the lungs, up through the throat, and formed by the mouth and lips of men are astonishingly filthy.

Chapter 3

Verse 13- *“Their throat is an open grave, With their tongues they keep deceiving,” “The venom of asps is under their lips”;*

they keep deceiving- a way of life.

venom of asps is under their lips- Psalm 140:3:

*They sharpen their tongues like a snake; **The venom of a viper is under their lips.***

The venom sac in a viper is hidden that ultimately poisons, paralyzes, and kills. “Sticks and stones may break my bones, but word will never hurt me.” FALSE

Chapter 3

Verse 14- *“Their mouth is full of cursing and bitterness”;*

mouth is full of cursing and bitterness- Paul sums up how we use our bodies to show our sinfulness. Again, he quotes Scripture to back up his argument. Psalm 10:7-

*His mouth is **full of cursing**, deceit, and oppression; Under his tongue is harm and injustice.*

This is not just profanity, but the wish for bad things to happen to others.

Chapter 3

Verse 15- *“Their feet are swift to shed blood,*

Paul quotes Isaiah 59:7- Their feet run to evil, And they hurry to shed innocent blood;

God is the Creator of all but not the Father of all. Men naturally act like their father, the devil (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. Whenever he tells a lie, he speaks from his own nature, because he is a liar and the father of lies.*

Chapter 3

Verse 16- *“Destruction and misery are in their paths,*

Paul again is quoting from Isaiah 59:8-

*Their thoughts are thoughts of wrongdoing, **Devastation and destruction are in their paths.***

Every place on the earth is marked by ruin and misery, desolation and destruction. Because man is sinful, he leaves sadness and pain through every year of his existence (Fall of Adam and Eve, Babel, the flood, wilderness wanderings, captivity, rejection of the Messiah, persecution of the church, persecution of Jews, etc.)

Chapter 3

Verse 17- *And they have not known the way of peace.”*

This verse reminds me of Jeremiah 6:14-

*They have healed the brokenness of My people superficially, Saying, ‘**Peace, peace,**’ **But there is no peace.***

Think of the time, money, and energy that has been spent on world peace, but peace cannot and will not come until Jesus brings it because we are incapable of peace apart from Him.

Chapter 3

Verse 18- *“There is no fear of God before their eyes.”*

Paul concludes the indictment against man with this summary statement. He quotes Psalm 36:1-

*“Wrongdoing speaks to the ungodly within his heart; **There is no fear of God before his eyes.**”*

“Fear” means respecting and honoring God. “God-fearers” is another name for believers. Respecting God will have a direct effect on our speech and conduct.

Chapter 3

Verse 19- *Now we know that whatever the Law says, it speaks to those who are under the Law, so that every mouth may be closed and all the world may become accountable to God;*

those who are under the Law- The end of Paul’s indictment is that we are all under the Law and therefore guilty.

every mouth may be closed- In a court of Law, a trial begins when the prosecution presents its case, followed by a defense. The Law acts as a prosecutor, but a defense isn’t presented because there is none. We are without defense and accountable (guilty) before God.

Chapter 3

Verse 20- *because by the works of the Law none of mankind will be justified in His sight; for through the Law comes knowledge of sin.*

After Paul's summation, what is the verdict? Guilty without a defense because we cannot keep all of the Law. Later, Paul will write in Galatians 3:24-

"Therefore the Law has become our guardian to lead us to Christ, so that we may be justified by faith."

guardian- paidagōgos- (child + leader) The Law's job is not to save us but to lead us to the Teacher who has salvation.

Chapter 3

Verse 21- *But now apart from the Law the righteousness of God has been revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets,*

the righteousness of God- A turn of events in the courtroom! Man is guilty without defense, but a solution- we don't have the necessary righteousness to be in right relationship, but God can provide it.

has been revealed- This is not a new revelation. This righteousness was foretold by the Old Testament prophets.

Chapter 3

Verse 22- *but it is the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction,*

faith in Jesus Christ- The righteousness God offers us is through His Son, Jesus Christ.

all those who believe- Paul returns to the key verse of this passage (1:16)-

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.”

Chapter 3

Verse 23- *for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,*

This is the second verse in the Romans Road to Salvation

- 3:10- *There is no righteous person, not even one;*
- 3:23- *for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,*

Paul makes two important distinctions. First, God's righteousness through Christ is offered to ANYONE (Jew or Gentile). Second, it is offered ONLY to those who put their faith in Jesus.

fall short- hysteroantai (fail to reach) We cannot obtain it by ourselves.

Chapter 3

Verse 24- *being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus,*

being justified- It is easy to misunderstand verses 23 and 24:

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus,

For all have sinned...being justified- This is not in support of universalism- that all people will be saved. No, he has combined two thoughts- all have sinned, but all can be justified.

Chapter 3

Verse 25- *whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. This was to demonstrate His righteousness, because in God's merciful restraint He let the sins previously committed go unpunished;*

propitiation- hilastērion (a sacrifice of atonement- mercy seat- Heb. 9:5) This is not used in the classical sense of appeasing an angry god and buying his love. It is used to denote reconciliation with God- a relationship that once existed before (Adam and Eve) that is now broken. Essentially, Jesus was both the Mercy Seat and the Blood Sacrifice that was sprinkled on it.

Chapter 3

Verse 26- *for the demonstration, that is, of His righteousness at the present time, so that He would be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.*

Why did God offer His Son as a sacrifice? To demonstrate His character. His righteousness and justice, and ultimately, His love and mercy.

What an incredible offer that costs us nothing and everything at the same time.

Chapter 3

Verse 27- *Where then is boasting? It has been excluded. By what kind of law? Of works? No, but by a law of faith.*

Where then is boasting- NO ONE has access to God apart from Jesus and His atoning work on the cross. Our pride in rule-following means NOTHING.

Our salvation is based ONLY by faith in what has been done for us.

Chapter 3

Verse 28- *For we maintain that a person is justified by faith apart from works of the Law.*

This is Paul's summation of verses 21-17.

Works play no part in becoming saved, although they might be evidence of being saved. It is only our faith in what has been done on our behalf.

Chapter 3

Verse 29- *Or is God the God of Jews only? Is He not the God of Gentiles also? Yes, of Gentiles also,*

Once again, Paul anticipates resistance to this truth by his Jewish readers. Jews believed that they would not be judged by God because they were circumcised and followed the law.

He refuted their thinking by showing that no one could follow the law and that every person (Jew and Gentile) was held to the same moral standard because of natural and special revelation.

Since He created all people, God is the God of all people.

Chapter 3

Verse 30- *since indeed God who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith is one.*

This is a continuation of Paul's thoughts from the previous verse.

God is not just Israel's God, even though the Gentiles worshipped false gods.

"So, we hold that a person is justified without works of the law, through faith alone." Martin Luther

Sola scriptura- Scripture alone, **Sola fide- faith alone**, Sola gratia- grace alone, Solo Christo- Christ alone, Soli Deo gloria- to the glory of God alone.

Chapter 3

Verse 31- *Do we then nullify the Law through faith? Far from it! On the contrary, we establish the Law.*

Paul answers one more objection before closing the chapter. Should we throw out the law and experience everything by faith only? By no means! (*mē genoito*). This is the topic of the next chapter. What is the relationship between the law of Moses and faith? Our faith in the work of Christ on the cross upholds the law in the sense that it fulfills all the obligations of the law.

