

## Lesson #5 Book of Romans

Question before the ages - How can a righteous God forgive sins without decreasing His righteousness?

It should also be noted that the Apostle Paul was unique in his writings and in total contrast to the other writers in the New Testament. Their background was fisherman, money changers etc. His – taught at the feet of Gamaliel, a Hebrew of Hebrews, concerning the law – he of his own words was *blameless*. Kept them perfectly. Trained in the best schools in not only the Jewish culture, but the best schools in the Greek culture. Paul was also a Roman citizen of which he draws upon when cornered by the Jews.

Another interesting side note, Paul said that he did not want to build on another man's foundation. Yet he did not start these "house churches in Rome"

Had to be as a result of Acts 2 experience if you will.

Again, the first half of this book is about Doctrine. In the first three chapters of Romans, we are talking about the need to see our sin. We have not yet discussed the *remedy* to satisfy this need. We are talking now about every man's need to see himself a sinner.

We will deal with salvation in chapters 4&5, 6-8 deal with the "meat" of the whole issue, commonly called Sanctification – 9-11 deal with Israel and the whole issue of "replacement theology" (which we will discuss in a moment) as it talks about Israel in the past, present and future.

This is mistaught in the church and totally misunderstood by our government and its leaders. Today.

The balance of the book deal with personal stuff with these believers in Rome.

We deal with the **pagan** man in Romans 1 – the **moral** man in Romans 2 Those folks that lead "better lives" than most folks, but are still lost without Christ, and then in the end of chapter 2, and 3 the religious man. And Paul uses the example of the "so called Religious man – the Jew"

Paul deals with the *Uncircumcised* – the **Gentiles**- and the *circumcised* – the **Jew**. Pointing out that the problem is not from without a man, but within a man.

Got it?

Again, this book was written to teach those who are already believers. Not to make believers, but to teach them truths. Not to the church of Rome, but to the churches in Rome, house churches if you will. How do we know? Look at chapter 16 and note all the folks he is responding to. Also, chapter 1 verse 7 – "to all who are in Rome, beloved of God and called Saints.

Before we look at this lesson, I would like to remind you of something we discussed in previous lessons.

There is a teaching offered to the Church of Jesus Christ that is pure **heresy**. This teaching stems from a total lack of knowledge on the part of the participants, is not correct and is contrary to the truth of God's word.

Look with me at **Jeremiah chapter 31**. Reading from **verse 35** and following; *"Thus saith the Lord, who gives the sun for the light by day, the ordinances of the moon and the stars by night, Who disturbs the sea and its waves roar (The Lord of Hosts is His Name)*

**Verse 35** *"If those ordinances depart from before Me, says the Lord, **then the seed of Israel shall also cease from being a nation forever***

**Vs 37** *"Thus saith the Lord, if the heavens above can be measured, and th foundations of the earth searched out beneath, **I will also cast off all the seed of Israel for all they have done sayeth the Lord.**"*

The teaching that "because the Jews rejected Jesus Christ, all of the things promised to the Nation of Israel, now belong to the church of Jesus Christ both good and bad and that God is through with the Jews.

This is known as "replacement theology" or Kingdom Now or Reconstruction Theology and are all wrong - period.

Why is knowing this so important? Because it led to antisemitism and the holocaust in Europe and the slaughter of millions of Jews, and because it is happening again. The same nonsense is being promoted upon believers and unbelievers today.

According to Zachariah 13 vs 8&9 in the first holocaust there were one in three Jews killed, The next one (vs 9) **2/3<sup>rd</sup>** of them will be killed.

Israel is Israel, and the Church is the Church – do not mix the two.

Returning now to the text at hand – **Chapter 3 verse 1**

The casual reader then asks; Well how so Paul and what profit is there to being a Jew?

His answer is (vs 2) much in every way.

Casual readers would interpret this verse (2) about the oracles of God – in that they were given the word- they penned it and protected it over the many years. All of this is true, but that is not what Paul means in this verse.

Rather he is saying that these "divine promises" were permitted to them. They not only penned it, it was about them personally.

De we see the distinction?

Not only did they record what was told them, they were to receive these promises, some of which have yet to be fulfilled.

Side note here beloved – when they discovered the “dead sea scrolls” most recently, they had been penned *a thousand years* earlier. And depict the book of Isaiah perfectly.

What Paul is saying here is that the Jews are also the recipients of the promises listed in the very writings that they were meticulous to transcribe.

By the way – do we realize that there are no promises offered to the Church in the Old Testament?

It was Paul’s privilege to reveal something that had been hidden and has not yet been revealed- – that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs of the same body – **Ephesians 3:1-6** as the Jew.

Now this mystery made known by Paul was not that gentiles would be saved for there are many situations listed in the Old Testament No it was that Jew and Gentile would be joined together- *fellow heirs if you will* - in what was to be called – The Church of Jesus Christ and be part of the *same body* and be *partakers of His promises* in Christ through the gospel.

Now as you study the book of Daniel and read from Daniel 9: 25 and 27 you will note that there is a “gap” in time between the 69<sup>th</sup> and the 70<sup>th</sup> week.

Daniel 9: 25-27 is this gap. Verse 24 talks about “for your people” – this is not the Church this is Israel. The main point here is that this has not all happened, but it will.....

That gap is listed in scripture 24 different times. Most notable in Revelation 4 and 5.

It is during this “gap” that the Church comes into being. It has been 2,000 plus years in this gap. The Church then began according to Acts 2 as the Holy Spirit fell on all in the upper room and this process was a miracle for sure and it will be a miracle in the way in which the church vanishes from the earth which is a coming event.

The take away from this above information is imperative that you understand that there is a difference between Israel and the Church.

They have different beginnings and endings, different objectives, different outcomes etc. Do not mix the two. In your personal study, be certain to understand what is being promised and to whom.

It will revolutionize the way In which you read and interpret scripture.

Ok, let us look at Genesis 17. These promises were given to the ‘seed of Abraham’

There are 3 ways to become a part of the seed of Abraham.

Check your DNA you could be a direct descendent of Abraham and have his seed within you.

You could *proselyte* and become a Jew and many did

The other was to be *related to Jesus Christ*, for He was a Jew

Anyway, now back to Romans 3 vs 3 What if some of these Jews don't believe, will their unbelief make the faithfulness of God without effect"?

You must understand that it is the *faithfulness of God* and not the *unfaithfulness of Israel* that is in view.

If you refuse to believe in what God has said about His people Israel, you have called God a liar. - God forbid we should do that... Unbelief is not accepting God's Word. And according to John, 3 it is cause to keep you from the kingdom. – Condemned if you will.

Verse 5 – Romans 3 – “but if our unrighteousness demonstrates the righteousness of God, what shall we say? Is God just who inflicts wrath? (I speak as a man)

What he is saying is: did we do God a favor by being so rebellious? Is God going to judge us for glorifying Him? Answer – God forbid. Certainly Not.

What Paul is leading up to is the question – Can your position with Him (which we will call salvation) be obtained by works? We know the answer. Salvation cannot be lost through works. If you cannot be “saved” by works, neither can you be “lost” by works.

To work in order to be “saved” you are in essence saying that His work is incomplete. Don't go there beloved.

Jesus said in Matthew 5 that unless your righteousness exceeds that of the Scribes and the Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.

Conclusion – verse 10 of 'Romans 3 – There is none righteous – no not one – Jew, Gentile and Pagan man- all in trouble.

Clearly defined in Psalm 14:1 & following: “The fool says in his heart, there is no God, They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none who does good.”

Paul then makes an astounding statement “there is **none** who understands, there is **none** that seeks after God.”

Beloved, if there is none who seeks and scripture clearly states that there are none, then all who do seek must be influenced at God's initiative. It has to start with Him.

You nor I even knew that we were in need of a savior. We were lost and didn't even know it. We were dead in our trespasses and sins.

This enlightening started with Him, moved through Him and ended in Him. We came to Him at His enticing. Some ask: when did you find Jesus. Beloved, He was never lost. We were. By His own will he be`gat us – period.

This is what Jesus was explaining in **Luke 4- 25-29**. You will remember that two folks were healed, but they were not Jews. What does that tell you? Those healed were done so because of Jesus – having nothing to do with their background – nothing to do with being a Jew.

When you teach that God does what He wants with who He wants, it raises up the same kind of anger that the folks in the synagogue were feeling. It was at that moment that they wanted to Kill the Lord Jesus. **John 6: 43-47** Jesus further explains that no one can come to the Father unless he is drawn.

Now look at verse 12 of Romans 3- They became “unprofitable” What does that mean? The word implies that they are “overripe” as a peach or an orange can become overripe. It is of no value anymore – spoiled

I am reminded of what one brother once told me at the Cornerstone. It was Reed Tompkins. He said that the idea that if you leave something alone that it will improve its condition, has never had weeds in his garden or grass growing through his walkway.

We do not progress upward. We progress downward. That is the idea Paul is persuading us with here.

Paul then discusses man’s speech and here he is quoting **Psalm 5 vs 9**. When he speaks here of the “asp” having poison under their lips, the reference here is to an Egyptian cobra – he is also referencing **Psalm 140: verse 3**.

When he speaks about the mouth he is referencing that the mouth is the window to the heart. I take you to **Mark 7:18** and following: Talking to His disciples Jesus says:” are you thus without understanding also? Do you not perceive that whatever enters a man from outside cannot defile him, because it does not enter him his heart but the stomach and is eliminated, thus purifying all foods. It is what comes *out of a man that defiles the man*. and then He goes into what comes out of a man that defiles him.

Beloved, we should all be aware here wouldn’t you say?

So He covers mans character, his conduct, his speech, his actions and then “The cause of all of this” Man has no fear of God. (vs 18)

Question before all of us at this point is; “**Why would God save any?**”

Paul then turns toward the law and its purpose in the first place. Verse 19.

Herein lies a truth that must be understood by all believers.

The law was never given to make man righteous. The law was never given to improve man. The law was never given to make him upright, or accepted before a Holy and Just God.

The purpose of the law was to bring man to the understanding that he is unable to keep the law, thereby needing help.. Scripture says that “through the law is the knowledge of

sin” In other words, if there was no law out there, we would be oblivious to the issue of sin. The law acts as a mirror to each one of us. It is unable to help us but is there only to show us our problems.

In West Texas there are stretches of road with no speed limits posted. Guess what? No one is breaking the law, there is none.

On the other hand, “rules to live by” as listed in most church doctrine, give cause to miss the mark (or sin if you will).

Restrictions on what to eat, where to go, how to behave, how to dress, what to do and not to do only give way to messing up. For without the law, there is no knowledge of sin and with the law comes the knowledge of sin.

I am forever reminded of the example given me years ago by my teacher and mentor Keith Lamb as he uses the example of the fellow staying at a friend's home located on a canal near the beach.. As Keith explained, there was a sign on the wall on the second story building that stated “no fishing from this balcony, it will lead to the destruction of the windows below as your line snags and the weights hit the windows.”

Until the fellow saw the sign, it had never occurred to him to fish from here. Once he saw the sign, all he could think about was how great the fishing might be. So guess what? He got his pole, cast out the line, it snagged and the weight went through the downstairs window.

What is the first thing you think about when you see a sign that says “no parking here” Yep, you begin to wonder why and before you know it, you are parked there. Well how about a sign that says “don't even think about parking here” or don't even think about eating one of these cookies” Your mind begins to start working or Immediately your mouth begins to water and you begin to imagine just how good they must taste.

Through the law is the knowledge of sin,

Notice in **verse 19 of Romans 3** *that to those who are “under the law (any law) that their mouths will be stopped and all the world will be guilty before God”* Ask yourself why this would be the case. Why would the law “stop my mouth,” and make me “guilty before God”?

The obvious answer is that once I fully understand the reasons for the law, and my reaction to it, I will understand the futility of it in the first place and my total inability to follow it if I am truly honest about myself. Remember beloved, the laws or commandments though outward are meant to expose the actual condition within the heart of a man.

Remember what the Apostle Paul said in **Romans 7::7** “What shall we say then, is the law sin? Answer – No certainly not (nothing wrong with the law, the problem is me) On the contrary Paul said, I would not have known **sin except** through the law. For I would not have known covetousness, unless the law had said: **you shall not covet**. He goes

on in **verse 8** to say: But sin, taking opportunity by the commandment (law) produced in me all manner of evil desire. For apart from the commandment (law) sin was dead. Ie. Without the speed limit sign, there could be no speeding. I would be dead to the suggestion totally.

He then goes on in **verse 9** – I was alive once without the law but when the commandment came (the law that said thou shalt not covet) **sin revived in me and I died.** Further then he says **verse 10** – the commandment which came (the law) which was to bring life, I found to bring death.”

Then **verse 11** – For sin, taking occasion by the commandment (law- any law) deceived me and by it killed me.

Beloved, this issue of laws in the life of the believer is universal and they need to be discarded. You will never be a free person when under legalism – period.

Oh how I wish the church would grasp the importance of all of this.

More to follow next time in lesson #6

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