

# No One Is Righteous

## Romans 3:1-20

### Introduction

#### I Paul's Rhetorical Objections

- A. What, then, are the advantages of being a Jew?
  - 1. They have been **entrusted** with God's Word - Ps 147:19f
- B. Will the Jews' lack of faith nullify God's faithfulness?
  - 1. God is **true** – men are liars - Num 23:19
  - 2. God is **right** when He speaks - Deut 32:4
  - 3. God **prevails** when He judges - Ps 51:4
- C. If our unrighteousness highlights God's righteousness, is God unjust for judging us in His wrath?
  - 1. Otherwise God could not judge the world - Ps 11:5-7
- D. If my falsehood enhances God's truthfulness, why am I still condemned as a sinner?
  - 1. "Let us do **evil** that good may come about" - Rom 6:1-2
    - a. Such questions are human in origin - Job 40:8
    - b. They will reap a deserved condemnation - Jude 1:4

#### II Paul's Conclusions Regarding Man

- A. Jews and Gentiles alike are all under sin
  - 1. There is no one **righteous**, not even one - Rom 3:23
  - 2. There is no one who understands - Jer 4:22
  - 3. There is no one who seeks God - Jer 29:13; Is 55:6-7
  - 4. All have **turned** away - Is 53:6
  - 5. All have become worthless - Philemon 1:11
  - 6. There is no one who does **good**, not even one - Ps 14:1-3
- B. Jews and Gentiles alike bear the fruit of sin
  - 1. Their **words** are sinful
    - a. Their throats are open graves - Ps 5:9; Matt 23:27-28
    - b. Their tongues practice deceit - Ps 52:2-4
    - c. The poison of vipers in on their lips - Ps 140:1-3
    - d. Their mouths are full of cursing & bitterness- Ps 50:16f
  - 2. Their **actions** are sinful
    - a. Their feet are swift to shed blood - Prov 6:16-19
    - b. Ruin and misery mark their ways - Is 59:7

- c. They don't know the way of peace - Is 59:8
- 3. Their **hearts** are sinful
  - a. They have no fear of God - Ps 36:1-4

#### III Paul's Conclusions Regarding the Law

- A. The **limitations** of the Law
  - 1. It affects only those who are under it - Rom 2:12
  - 2. No one will be righteous by **observing** it - Gal 2:15-16
- B. The **purpose** of the Law
  - 1. To **silence** every mouth before God - Gal 3:21-24
  - 2. To make the whole world **accountable** to God - Gal 3:10
  - 3. To bring about in man a **consciousness** of sin - Rom 7:7

### PERSONAL APPLICATION

Take some time this week to consider the following:

- 1. What kind of "rules" have you attempted to keep in the past to achieve a right standing before God? Were you successful? Why or why not? How did you deal with your failure?
- 2. Compare the sins of the Jews in chapter 3:9-18 to the sins of the Gentiles in chapter 1:18-32. How are they similar? Different? Which list best describes your life before Christ?
- 3. The Law can be viewed in one of two ways; 1) Descriptive (identifying our problem) or 2) Prescriptive (remedying our problem). Which is the correct view and why [Hint: Read Gal 3:24-25]? In light of these truths, what would be the wrong use of the Law? Can you think of any current examples?
- 4. What principles can you learn from Paul's evangelistic approach to the Gentiles and Jews in chapters 2-3 [Hint: 1 Cor 9:20-21]? How can you apply this to your own evangelistic efforts?
- 5. Take a moment to confess to God that, apart from Christ and His imparted righteousness, you are hopelessly unrighteous. Thank God for the righteousness that He provided in the sacrifice of Christ and is received by faith alone -- from first to last.

**BOB HALLMAN - THE EPIC LIFE**

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