



Ro 3:1–20—Our Unrighteousness

July 28

OVERVIEW: [Romans \(1–4\)](#)

CONTEXT: Paul longs to go to Rome to visit the church there. The letter he writes them until this can happen is one of the greatest descriptions of the Gospel, something which the believers at the heart of worldly power in Rome have no need to be ashamed of (1:16). He begins first with the bad news, which is needed if the good news is to be truly good. We have rejected our Creator and pursued idolatry and wickedness and are deserving of His wrath (ch.1). To this mixed congregation (Jew/Gentile), Paul goes to great lengths to stress God is not partial, even Jews are sinners in need of the New Covenant (ch. 2). In ch.3 Paul finishes this thought and stresses how we're all unrighteous and in need of Jesus.

FIRST, A.M. SERMON RECAP (Ro 1:18–32)

- What can you share about the church in Rome? What are some reasons why Paul wanted to visit?
- Why are we justly under God's wrath?
- Why do we suppress the truth?
- How does v. 25 helpfully summarize the situation?
- Why is homosexuality (and other sins) used as an example of the outcome?
- Discuss v. 32 in light of today.

READ: Ro 3:1–20

QUESTIONS:

1. *Paul has just argued ethnic Jews are just as much under God's wrath as Gentiles. He now begins by answering these questions. What value for salvation do they have, v. 2?*
2. *Even though the Jews were unfaithful to obey God's commands and promises, He will remain faithful to work salvation in their midst (see Ro 11:25, some Jews are saved today just as there will be a large revival amongst them at some future point). If there is*

still hope for ethnic Israel, how can there still be hope for you today, even if you've turned from the Lord?

3. *In vv. 5–8 Paul addresses two [complex] objections: a) the Jews are not responsible if it depends on grace (the same is true of Gentiles), b) that Paul taught a cheap grace where God got more glory the more sinners sinned (see ch.6).*
 - a. **How is it useful to outthink our opponents or to think through answers before you are even asked?**
4. *V. 9– Paul returns to conclude his main point of 1:18–3:20, that all are sinners by citing numerous OT passage (see over).*
 - a. If your opponents are Jewish what sense did it make to argue from a source they esteemed? **How can we use this principle in evangelism/apologetics today?**
5. **Why do people not think Jesus is good news? What do they fail to grasp?**
6. *Vv. 9+– The question is not whether people are good (or not as bad as they could be) but whether we are good enough. Why do good works apart from faith not please God (Heb 11:6).*
7. **By contrast to popular culture, what picture do the following verses paint of human nature (vv. 10b–18)?**
8. Why do some verses refer to speech and murder? How do these echo the Garden/Fall?
9. *Vv. 19–20– If the Jew's couldn't keep the Law of Moses, by extension no one could measure up to God's standard (Mt 5:48).*
10. *Building on the bad news Paul then turns to good news (vv. 21–26). How is it we can be forgiven and receive God's righteousness. What are some reason why this is such good news?*

NEXT TIME: Aug 4, Ro 6:15–23, Slaves to Sin or Righteousness

OT Testimony that All Are under Sin (3:9)

Romans 3	OT Reference
<i>Sinful Condition</i>	
v. 10, none is righteous	Ps. 14:3/53:3; Eccles. 7:20
v. 11a, no one understands	Ps. 14:2/53:2
v. 11b, no one seeks for God	Ps. 14:2/53:2
v. 12, all have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one	Ps. 14:3/53:3
<i>Sinful Speech (note progression from throat to tongue to lips)</i>	
v. 13a, b, their throat is an open grave; they use their tongues to deceive	Ps. 5:10, Septuagint (English, 5:9)
v. 13c, the venom of asps is under their lips	Ps. 140:3
v. 14, their mouth is full of curses and bitterness	Ps. 10:7
<i>Sinful Action</i>	
v. 15, their feet are swift to shed blood	Prov. 1:16/Isa. 59:7
v. 16, in their paths are ruin and misery	Isa. 59:7
v. 17, and the way of peace they have not known	Isa. 59:8
<i>Summary Statement</i>	
v. 18, there is no fear of God before their eyes	Ps. 36:1