

## **Judgment Part 3**

- Paul is basically going to ask a natural question in his audience's minds. Vs. 1
- As a result of that question & answer, he will ask & answer 2 more sub-questions. Vs. 3 Vs. 9

**In Other Words, We Have 3 Questions To Answer, The Second Two Come As a Result of the First.**

### **Review**

#### **Chapter 1:18-32 God's Wrath Has Been Revealed**

**Vs. 18,19** Wrath of God is being revealed from Heaven against all unrighteousness (Remember that Mykel pointed out "IS Being Revealed") This is ongoing.

- Men are without excuse. Because we have fail to recognize even natural order of creation.
- We showed we knew how to sin before we were given Mosaic Law, or the Gospel.
- We didn't need stone tablets in order to sin. We rejected righteousness when we ate of the fruit.
- Satan rejected righteousness when he decided to become his own god.

#### **Chapter 2**

1. God's Judgment is Impartial.
2. His Judgment is According Truth
3. His Judgment IS NOT Based on Heritage or Religious Practices
  - You don't get a pass for simply being Jewish or circumcised
  - We don't get a pass today for being present in Church.
  - We are spared the wrath of God based on our confession of Jesus as Lord.

**The Natural Question Paul's Audience Would Have is: Then What's So Special About Being a Jew?**

## I. Question #1: What Advantage Is There to Being a Jew?

**If Circumcision & Obeying God's Law Doesn't Ensure Salvation What's the Advantage to a Jew?**

- Vs. 1 ***"Then what advantage has the Jew? Or what is the benefit of circumcision?"***
- What "special" advantage do we have over the Gentiles?
  - We've been reading & studying scripture for centuries
  - We've been circumcising as a physical sign of being separate from the rest of the nations
  - We've been sacrificing these animals to atone for our sins every year.

"Now you say it doesn't matter? Isn't there some advantage or benefit that we should have?"

**Answer Question #1: The Advantage is That It's Great in Every Respect**

- Vs. 2 ***"Great in every respect. First of all, that they were entrusted with the oracles of God."***
- ***"First of All"*** could also be rendered ***"To Begin With, Or Mainly Because....."***

**Paul Is Saying: Jews Have An Advantage Because They Were Entrusted w/ God's Promises**

- Privilege & a unique blessing God placed upon Israel out of All the Nations
- Having God's oracles IS NOT a guarantee of salvation- rather it made them accountable to God.
- **James 3 Addresses teachers & leaders.**
  - Cautions leaders - increased accountability to God.
  - Teachers don't have a unique path to salvation.
  - Teachers don't get to circumvent the Gospel.
  - Blessing in teaching the Word, but there is greater accountability to God.

**"Oracles of God":** This is only used 3 other times in New Testament.

- Not just the written Word, but everything God had spoken to Israel- all the unique promises.
- **Deuteronomy 4:7-9, Psalm 147:19-20**
- These two passages reveal the uniqueness of God's interest in Israel.
- God hasn't done for any other nation what He has done for Israel. This is special.

The Next Question Paul Is Going to Answer Comes As a Result of What He has Just Said.....

## II. Question #2 “Does the Unfaithfulness of Israel Mean God Is Unfaithful?”

Paul Essentially Asks a Rhetorical Question Arising Out of What He Has Just Said.

- Vs. 2 If the Advantage to Israel Is to be Entrusted w/ the Oracles of God.....
- Vs. 3 What Happens When Israel Doesn't Believe? Does that Mean God Is Unfaithful When He Judges?
  - **Unbelief** = literal translation **unfaithful**
  - Paul is asking, If Israel is judged by God just like all the other nations, doesn't this ultimately negate His faithfulness to the Jews?

### Answer Question #2 “May It Never Be”

- Vs. 4 *“May it never be! Rather, let God be found true, though every man be found a liar, as it is written.”*
- Even though everyone is found to be unrighteous, this doesn't mean God is wrong or unrighteous.
- **Paul quotes King David in Psalm 51:4**
  - David was well aware of his transgression. He understood that his penalty was death.
  - He understood that God is right, faithful, & just when He judges.
  - David's repentant heart had become ok with whatever God's judgment of him was.
- *“Thou art judged”* Interesting Paul uses present passive infinitive implying that when God is Judged, He is found to be true, right, and faithful.
- **Vs. 5 Paul introduces another possible objection His hearers or readers may have:**  
*“But if our unrighteousness demonstrates the righteousness of God, what shall we say? The God who inflicts wrath is not unrighteous, is He?”*
  - In other words, If our sin reveals how righteous God is, isn't that a good thing?
  - If our sin ultimately highlights how righteous God is, why does He still judge us?
  - If our unrighteousness reveals God's righteousness doesn't that make our unrighteousness good?

### **Paul Then Gives 3 Results If God Were to Abstain From Judging**

1. Vs. 6 He could never judge the world because it would always reveal His righteousness.
  2. Vs. 7 He could never judge Paul's sin because it would also reveal God's righteousness.
  3. Vs. 8 Eventually some would say “Let's sin more so more of God's righteousness can be revealed.
- **Romans 6:1** *“When sin increases grace increases all the more; should we sin more so grace can increase more? Certainly not”*

### III. Question #3 “Are Jews Better Off Than Gentiles?”

#### Vs. 9a *“What then? Are we better than they?”*

- Paul is addressing the rhetorical question *“Are we better off or do we have an advantage when it comes to God’s judgment?”*
  - He’s already answered that being trusted with oracles of God is a privilege.
  - Now he’s answering a slightly different question:
    - *Do we have an advantage when it comes to judgment of sin?*
    - *Surely being a Jew helps in that area.....right?*

#### Answer Question #3: NOT AT ALL!!

#### Vs. 9b *Not at all; for we have already charged that both Jews and Greeks are all under sin....”*

- Paul is going to give examples of sin pervading all mankind equally, both Jew & Gentile.
  1. Vs. 10, 11, 12 Psalm 14:1-3                      None are righteous, none seek God, or do good.
  2. Vs. 13, 14 Psalm 5:9, 10:7, 140:3              All have turned aside, done evil & are useless
  3. Vs. 15, 16, 17 Isaiah 59:7,                      All are prone to violence
  4. Vs. 18 Psalm 36:1                                      No one fears God

- The point Paul is making here is that these truths apply to all of humanity.
- It is these characteristics, these activities, these behaviors, these propensities that condemn us.
- These are not traits that are unique to only a certain people group.
- Nor are these traits something that Israel has miraculously been absolved or washed clean.

**Mankind is saved by one consistent truth and that is FAITH IN JESUS.**

#### **The Last Point Paul Is Going to Make:**

#### **Jews Will Not Avoid God’s Judgment Simply Because They Have the Law**

- Vs. 19-20 *“Now we know that whatever the Law says, it speaks to those who are under the Law, that every mouth may be closed, and all the world may become accountable to God; because by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight; for through the Law come the knowledge of sin.”*

- The Law given to the Jews resulted in accountability to God.
- Strict obedience to the religious rites of the Law does not automatically justify anyone.
- The benefit of the Law is that it brings an understanding of sin.

**Conclusion:** So This Is Our 3<sup>rd</sup> & Final Week Looking At God's Judgment For Sin

1. Chapter 1 Paul revealed:

- God's wrath is a result of our sin.
- God's wrath is justified.
- God's judgment for sin is already being seen in our world.

2. Chapter 2 Paul revealed no one escapes God's Judgment:

- The person who relies on religious activities fails because he's a hypocrite.
- We learned that God is impartial when He judges. He judges each person according his/her actions.

3. Chapter 3:1-20

- Paul revealed how Jews have a special relationship w/ God, but it does not protect them from judgment.
- Jews had an advantage in so far as they had the law, but it was not a free pass.
  - The law made them aware of sin
  - The oracles of God taught them to be looking for a savior
  - But, they did not get to escape God's judgment by a different means than gentiles.

I think we can develop a similar habit of thinking even within the church today.

We might not say that we are saved by anything other than faith in Jesus.

But sometimes our actions and attitudes can get a little haughty.

Sometimes we conveniently equate western hemisphere privileges with advantages toward judgment. Many Facebook & dating profiles indicate "Christian" simply because they aren't Muslim, Buddhist, etc. They are equally worthy of God's judgment, and they have become misled.

Sometimes the self righteous acts and the grass roots social movements mask people's needs for a Savior. We see people "trying" to circumvent judgement by their great social endeavors.

Thanks be to God for revealing His wrath against sin, & providing a solution.

Thanks be to God for making the escape from His wrath the same means for every single person Faith in Him.