

ROMANS 3SERMON ALL MEANS ALL

Romans 3:selected

Today's chapter of Romans deals with being justified by faith.
 With all the different religions in the world.
 What is the advantage of being a Christian or even a Methodist?
 Especially if clean living, church attendance does not take one to heaven.
 Why join the church?
 Why attend?

Why be circumcised as a Jew, or baptized as a Christian?

What advantage, then, is there in being a Jew, or what value is there in circumcision?

Much in every way! Romans 3:1-2

Paul says the advantage is

Much in every way! Romans 3:2

We all know a good deal when we see it.

Sarah was reading a newspaper while her husband was engrossed in a game on TV.

Suddenly, she burst out laughing. "Listen to this, there's a classified ad here where a guy is offering to swap his wife for a season tickets." She said to her husband teasingly,

"Would you swap me for season tickets?"

He quickly said: "Absolutely not, season's more than half over."

The Jews received the best deal God ever gave the world.

We know a good deal when we see it,

We know good news when we hear it.

The newlywed wife said to her husband when he returned from work, "I have great news for you. Pretty soon, we're going to be three in this house instead of two."

Her husband ran to her with a big smile on his face and delight in his eyes.

Gave her a hug and a kiss.

She said: "I'm glad that you feel this way since tomorrow morning, my mother moves in with us."

I. WHAT IS THE GOOD NEWS OF BEING A JEW OR A CHRISTIAN?

First of all, they have been entrusted with the very words of God. Romans 3:2

There is a sense of pride in the Jews that they were Chosen of God.

They were the elect people.

God used them to show the world his love,

And his forthcoming savior.

This news was never hidden,

The Jews were the womb where Christianity was birthed.

God used them as an example to show his faithfulness and love.

His way of salvation.

Think about it this way

Imagine that there was a remote island

which was permanently shrouded in darkness.

There is only one way off the island of darkness –

by means of a narrow footbridge that stretches across a deep chasm.

Now everyone on the island is given a tiny penlight,
so small that it can only illuminate the darkness for one foot in any direction.

But one group is given a Million watt searchlight,

The beam so strong it can cut through the darkness for miles and miles.

Although the searchlight was given to this group in
order to help them find the bridge and

then to help others find the bridge,

Guess what?

They used their flashlight to
to search for needles in haystacks.

To search for minute laws where they could argue about
whether or not it was against the law to spit on the Sabbath.

For example if you spit on a rock it was alright.

If, however, you spit in the dirt, it was a sin,
because you made mud.

Instead of using the light of God's word

to lead men out of darkness,

The Jewish leaders used it to send man
deeper into spiritual darkness!

The same is true in our day as well,

God help us when we split hairs over predestination and election,

Over water baptism,

Over the value of sins.

While multitudes perish

If our well meaning worship services, and spiritual activities

Focus on us

Rather than living for God.

We are not living up to the truth.

And all our good deeds and religious living,

Will not earn us favor with the Lord.

Having the truth and not living it, is irresponsible

And we would be far better off to just go to a liberal church

Where we don't hear the truth.

The world is full of unfaithful people

And broken promises,

Who live a lie,

And we don't have to look very far in ourselves to see it.

Paul writes:

True, some of them were unfaithful; but just because they broke their promises, does that mean God will break his promises? Of course not! Though everyone else in the world is a liar, God is true. Romans 3:3-4

Just because some of them were unfaithful,

Doesn't mean God was unfaithful.

Just because some broke their promises,

Does mean God broke His promise.

Just because everyone else in the world is a liar,
Doesn't mean God is a liar.

1. God is faithful,
2. God is trustworthy
3. God is true

The million watt searchlight we have been given is the Bible.
It tells us how to find the bridge
It show us how to lead others to the bridge.
If you are not willing as a Christian to do that,
Then go to a church where the Gospel is not preached,
Stay away from Authentic Christianity and its teachings.
Because we will have to answer for the light we have received.

God did not make a mistake in choosing the Jews and then the Gentiles,
And he did not make a mistake in choosing you.
We have a sacred trust.
We must use it or lose it.

Just because we have been chosen doesn't mean we have been saved.
That's what the Jews didn't understand,
The Apostle Paul reminds us that:

**II. JEW AND GENTILS ALIKE ARE LOST BEFORE GOD.
We are all sinners.**

"There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one." Romans 3:10-12

Paul is showing how the whole of man is lost by sin.
His mind—no one that understands
His heart—No one that seeks God
His will—no one that does Good.

When we measure our righteousness up against God's righteousness.
We see that we are no good to ourselves, to society, or even to the church.
We also discover that we are not profitable to God.
More tragically: We are blind to see it.
We need a wake up call.

One dad got a wake up call, when his teenager daughter knocked on his bedroom door first thing in the morning and said: "Today is Nerd Day at school, Dad. Can I borrow some of your clothes?"

The Apostle Paul's wake up call points out three areas of our sinfulness.
First: Our Mouth.

13"Their throats are open graves; their tongues practice deceit. The poison of vipers is on their lips. Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness." Romans 3:13-14

Wake up God says there is a connection

Between our words and our character.
 Our mouth and our heart.
 Our language makes lucid which love we have.
 For the world or for God?

We all know how our mouth can get us into trouble.

We have had a lot of new babies born this past month.
 Every mother want to show you her baby and expect you to say something.
 I saw one of our mothers with her babies and I said:
 "Wow, that is a cute baby?"
 she said, "I'll bet you say that to all the new parents."
 To be honest I said: "No, just to those whose babies are really cute."
 She said: "So what do you say to the others?"
 I said: "Why He looks just like you."

Words can get us into trouble.

Matthew 12:34 "For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh."

Since the sinner is dead by nature
 Only death can come out of his mouth.
 The only salvation for a condemned mouth is that
 It becomes a converted mouth.
 That only happens when it **acknowledges** that
Jesus Christ is Lord. Romans 10:9-10

Second: Paul examines the sinners feet.

Just as his words are deceitful
 So his ways are destructive.
 So WAKE UP!
 Think of the places our feet can take us....
 That only lead us to trouble and to sin.

15"Their feet are swift to shed blood; ruin and misery mark their ways, Romans 3:15-16

How many times have we said as youngster:

It wasn't me. I wasn't there.

But we were there.

the way of the sinner brings death, destruction, and misery wherever he goes.

He is on the broad road that leads to destruction Matthew 7:13-14

We need to repent, trust Jesus, and get on the narrow road that leads to life.

THIRD: Paul reveals the Sinners mind

17and the way of peace they do not know." Romans 3:17

We need to wake up.

We need to walk straight.

We need to get smart.

Talking about getting smart.

I read about a man who noticed three men and dog playing cards.

The dog was playing with extraordinary performance.

The man said; "Wow that is a very smart dog."

One of the players said: "Not so smart, every time he gets a good hand he wags his tail."

It doesn't matter if we're a dog or man if you lack knowledge or understanding
It darkens our minds.

That was why Jesus wept over Jerusalem

**Luke 19:41-44 If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace—
but now it is hidden from your eyes. Luke 19:42**

It was like their mind was gone.

Now it must have been very irritating to the Jew
To hear that his law, circumcision, and all his external advantages,
were utterly insufficient to procure him the favor of God.
And that as his chosen people they too were sinners.

23for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, Romans 3:23

But the good news remained that Gentile and Jew alike are saved by God.;

III. GOD SAVES US ALL

The Good news is that God's MERCY
provides redemption by Jesus Christ,
for Jew and Gentile, including all who believe.

Note the two things that God gives to us:

First: Our righteousness:

**This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe.
Romans 3:22**

Second: Our Justification

**and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ
Jesus. Romans 3:24**

The connection is Jesus Christ.

In the Old Testament sacrifices of calves, sheep, and bulls,
temporary payed for sin

But in the new testament

The sacrifice of Jesus blood completely paid sins debt.

Third: Our Atonement

**25God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood... He did it to
demonstrate his justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those
who have faith in Jesus. Romans 3:25-26**

God revealed

His Justice: that sins requires a sacrifice or payment.

His Mercy, that God himself provided the sacrifice required by His Justice.

Oh how we need that revelation today.

Listen to the cry of a young man, who said:

My parents separated when I was 5, divorced when I was 8, or so and there was a lot of fighting
and screaming and yelling. I was a pawn in their emotional games for the better part of my
childhood. Now I find myself continually sabotaging myself so I don't get anywhere in life and I
can't ever be truly happy. I skip job interviews, I stole a car, I took drugs, I throw money away
like its nothing, I don't respect myself. I finally let a woman into my life and she's the best thing
that ever happened to me but I continually disrespect her, don't answer her calls simply because

I'm 'busy' and more recently, I've cheated on her. How do I fix myself so that I can move forward with my life and marry this wonderful wonderful woman and live happily ever after?

Well, friends—He can't fix himself.

We can't fix ourselves.

That is the problem with this self help world.

We are all sinners.

I'm sorry for what has happened to you in your past, in this sinful world,

But we must take responsibility today, for what we are.

SLIDE----Surrender what you can to a living God.

Ask forgiveness for your sins.

For when you and I repent.

God pardons our sin

What he pardons he purifies

What he purifies he sanctifies,

What he sanctifies, he declares as His own,

A Holy people set apart.

This redemption is for the past, the present, and the future.

It is not an easy road, but it's a faithful one.

And the Christian walk will get us home.

All that way home.

As our closing hymn will say:

When the evening closes in

And we shut our weary eyes

God will be there

With just one more surprise.

Will you begin to trust God today,

And take just one step in his direction?

And say:

God I need you to touch my life

With your spirit

Then together we can then make a difference.

Christ in us, the hope of Glory.