

Romans 3:1-8
“Stop Ducking & Dodging”

~ INTRO ~

THE FIRST EIGHT CHAPTERS OF (Romans) IS...

- DOCTRINE...
 - Sin (1:18 – 3:20)
 - Salvation (3:21 – 5:21)
 - Sanctification (6:1 – 8:39)

SO FAR... PAUL SPENT TWO-CHAPTERS ILLUSTRATING...

- How people fall into one of three different camps:
 - a) The **secular person** lives as if there is NO God.
 - b) The **moral person** lives as if THEY are God.
 - c) The **religious person** lives by rules to PLEASE GOD.

IN THE END...

- Not a single person is righteous before a Holy God.

REMEMBER...

- It only take one single indiscretion in our mind / emotions / or will...
 - To **reveal** a person as a sinner...
 - **Requiring** God’s intervention for righteousness.

NOW... THIS WAS TOUGH...FOR THE JEWS TO DIGEST...

- Because they had circumcision & the Law.
 - But the law was to bring everyone to Christ.
 - (Gal. 3:24) NKJV

IDEA #1 – WHAT’S THE ADVANTAGE

SPEAKING TO THE JEWS... PAUL SAYS...

- “Listen guys”... God **HAS** given you tons of favor.

(Rom. 9:4-5) NKJV

- Seven advantages:

- 1) You’re God’s own people. (Ex. 4:22) NKJV

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- 2) His presence has been with you.
- 3) You had the covenants.
- 4) His law gave you direction.
- 5) The service of God’ dwelling place was committed to you.
- 6) You inherited the promises of Abraham.
- 7) Your Jewish lineage is how Christ came into the world.

CHURCH... GOD HAS GIVEN YOU TONS OF FAVOR TOO.

I NEED TO MAKE SURE YOU UNDERSTAND THIS:

- Because many parts of the American Church...
 - Are shrouded in “Combo-Theology” mixing OT with NT.

UNDER THE OLD COVENANT...

- A righteous walk was the “*pre-condition*” for fellowship with God.
 - **If** man does this... **then** God will do that.

MAYBE... WE BETTER RECOGNIZE THE PHRASE...

- As “*blessings & cursings*” of the OT.
 - This is how man related to God under the Laws of Moses.
 - It seemed to be fear based & performance driven.
- The O.T. law provided atonement for sin...
 - But it did NOT remove sin – it only covered it.
- The OT had man standing at a distance from God.

UNDER THE *New Covenant*

- A righteous walk is the result of fellowship with God...
 - (Founded on grace & received by faith).

(John 1:29) NKJV

- *Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.*

THE JOY UNDER THE NEW COVENANT...

- Is entirely dependent on God’s Grace.

KEY...

- Obedience to God is born out of a love for Him.

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- NOT thru a fear of punishment from Him.

(Gal. 3:21)

“... For IF there had been a law... which could have given life,
truly righteousness would have been BY the law.”

IDEA #2 – BY CONTRAST WE SEE OUR NEED

THERE WAS A PERVERSION...

- Of Paul’s teaching on the Doctrine of Justification.

FALSE REPORTS CLAIMED...

- That people should sin as much as possible to magnify God’s Grace.

DOUBLE-THREAT:

Threat #1

- People embraced being saved by Christ – (true).
 - But simultaneously embraced works...
 - As being necessary for salvation – (not true).

Threat #2

- False teaching influenced naïve believers to keep living immoral lives’.
 - Paul addressed the need for purity.

(John 1:17) NKJV

“For the law was given thru Moses, but grace & truth came thru Jesus Christ.”

IN ANCIENT CULTURES...

- The oldest son would receive two things:
 - 1) An inheritance
 - 2) And responsibility

PAUL TAUGHT...

- A person saved by grace...
 - Should NOT continue practicing sin.

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HERE’S HIS POINT:

- Sin does NOT glorify God’s grace...
 - Rather it shows our need for it!

~ IN CLOSING ~

IF YOU’VE BEEN...

- **“Ducking & Dodging”** God it’s time to stop!
 - God has something much better for you.