

In chapter 2 Paul has skillfully demonstrated that the Jew is without excuse and under the condemnation and judgment of God.

**There are three Jewish questions raised in Chapter 3 by which he is going to try to argue his way out of judgment!**

**Question I** Verses 1 to 4: **What advantage or preeminence has the Jew and circumcision?**

**Question II** Verses 5 and 6: **If God makes use of human sin to set forth His glory (as He will) would it not be unrighteous to punish that sin with wrath?**

**Question III** Verses 7 and 8: **“If God’s truth (as to His warnings and promises) was enhanced through my Lie—if He got glory through my (Jewish) sin, why does He find fault with me as a sinner?”**

Newell

We find the very same thing today. When we present the gospel to others and clearly show them their own sinfulness and their need of Christ, they often begin raising objections and throwing out arguments to try to get themselves out from under the judgment of God

(for example, "What about the heathen?" "How can a loving God send anyone to hell?" I'm a good person. etc.)

### **Question I**     *Romans 3:1 (NASB)*

*<sup>1</sup> Then what advantage has the Jew? Or what is the benefit of circumcision?*

Back to chapter 2 where we saw that the Jews rested comfortably in three things:

1. They had the law.
2. They were circumcised.
3. They were children of Abraham.

Paul made it very clear in chapter 2 that ...

1. Having the law doesn't do a person any good (see 2: 13).
2. Being circumcised doesn't do a person any good (see 2:25).
3. Being a child of Abraham doesn't do you any good (see 2:28-29).

With these things in mind, it is natural that the Jew would then ask the questions found in **Romans 3: 1** – *“Then what advantage has the Jew?”*

- If we are under God's judgment just like the Gentiles, **what advantage is there in being a Jew? What's the benefit?**
- **If having the law and being circumcised and being a child of Abraham does me no good, then what advantage is there in being a Jew?**

**ANSWER TO QUESTION 1**

***<sup>2</sup> Great in every respect. First of all, that they were entrusted with the oracles of God.***

The Jews have benefits and privileges that none of the other nations had. Romans 9:4-5

But here he simply lists the chief advantage (the first and primary advantage that they had): ***UNTO THEM (THE JEWS) WERE COMMITTED THE ORACLES.***

Literally, "*they were trusted with the oracles of God*" or as we would say it, "*they were entrusted with God's Word.*"

**Were they faithful to their trust or not?**

***<sup>3</sup> What then? If some did not believe, their unbelief will not nullify the faithfulness of God, will it?***

Actually, the Jews were accusing God of being unfaithful:

**"Lord, You've given us Your Word and You've given us many promises as a nation, and now why are You being unfaithful to us?"**

In verse 3 Paul shows who really is unfaithful!

God gave them His Word and they were the ones who were unfaithful.

- God did not fail!
- The Bible did not fail!
- They were the ones who failed!

**Challenge!** = ***"Shall their unbelief nullify the faithfulness of God?"***

***NO!***

***4 May it never be! Rather, let God be found true, though every man be found a liar, as it is written, "THAT YOU MAY BE JUSTIFIED IN YOUR WORDS, AND PREVAIL WHEN YOU ARE JUDGED."***

The question raised in Romans 3:3 is answered with a resounding,

***"GOD FORBID!" Rm. 3:31;6:2;7:7***

- Men may be liars but this does not make God a liar!
- Men may be unfaithful, but this does not make God unfaithful!
- Even if every man on the face of the earth believed in the theory of evolution, this would not make it true.
- God and His Word (especially Genesis 1-2) would be true and every man would be a liar!

**Lord, You are always the Overcomer and the Victor! You are always right, and You always win every case!**

***<sup>5</sup> But if our unrighteousness demonstrates the righteousness of God, what shall we say? The God who inflicts wrath is not unrighteous, is He? (I am speaking in human terms.)***

1. "If I have magnified God's righteousness by my unrighteousness, **then how can God judge me?** **Question II**
2. If my sin makes God look all the more righteous, then how can God blame me for my sin?
3. My sin is God's gain! God gains by my unrighteousness! My sin makes God look good!
  - a. My unrighteousness makes God look righteous!
  - b. My unfaithfulness makes God look faithful!
4. **So**, I'm really doing a favor for God by enhancing and magnifying His righteous character!
5. **Consequently**, if my sin is benefiting God so much, **how can God judge me for my sin?**
6. **Therefore**, if God judges me for doing Him service, He must be unrighteous!"  
*"I speak as a man"* -- Paul was just stating the arguments he anticipated of others.

<sup>6</sup> *May it never be!* *For otherwise, how will God judge the world?*

Paul again answers his own question –

**“GOD FORBID (PERISH THE THOUGHT)”**

Jews knew that God was going to judge the world and that He was righteous in doing so!

What Paul is attacking is the false hopes of men to evade that judgment.

Let's say that you manage to escape conviction of sin, and consequently you miss personal faith in the Crucified One, you will go to hell forever.



*<sup>7</sup> But if through my lie the truth of God abounded to His glory, why am I also still being judged as a sinner?*

“If God’s truth (as to His warnings and promises) was enhanced through my Lie—if He got glory through my (Jewish) sin, why does He find fault with me as a sinner?”

“If my lie (my unfaithfulness) magnifies and enhances God's truth, and God is glorified by my lie, then why does God judge me?”

Even a wicked, hard-hearted Pharaoh can bring glory to God (see Romans 9:17,18,21,22,23).

Man's sin can bring glory to God, but this certainly does not exempt man from judgment.

*<sup>8</sup> And why not say (as we are slanderously reported and as some claim that we say), "Let us do evil that good may come"?  
Their condemnation is just.*

"Let us do evil that good may come" - Paul was falsely accused of teaching this.

**Why?** Because Paul taught that salvation was by grace apart from any works.

You could see how Paul's teaching could easily be perverted:  
**“Let's live any way we please and let's do evil because salvation is by grace. The more we sin the brighter His grace.”**

PAUL DID NOT TEACH THIS (see Romans 6: 1- 2). This was a wicked distortion of the doctrine of salvation by grace.

**Saving grace of God teaches us the very opposite (see TITUS 2: 11-12)!**

*Titus 2:11-12 (NASB)*

*<sup>11</sup> For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men,*

*<sup>12</sup> instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age,*

**"LET US DO EVIL THAT GOOD MAY COME"--** this is the wicked and **unbiblical philosophy that the end justifies the means.**

**Examples:** Communism.-- They do not mind doing evil as long as good (their cause) is advanced.

Early Roman Believers: -- "I'll deny Christ so that I will have more days to live to tell others about Christ."

SCHOOL – “I’ll cheat on this exam, and this will enable me to pass my course and get my degree and eventually become a medical doctor and then I will be able to save many lives!”

STEALING -- "I'll steal this bread so that I'll be able to feed my starving family and preserve them alive,”

EVANGELISM-- "Souls must be won at any cost!" "I'll cooperate with the enemies of Christ so that they can sponsor my crusades and then I'll be able to preach the gospel to more people!" "To win the world for Christ you need to be like the world and compromise your standards."

Our attitude should be this: **“Lord, I desire to do your will no matter how hard it is and I’m going to leave the results, the outcome, with You.”** I am totally dependent on You to work it out.

## **The 3 men mentioned in Chapters 2-3 will be judged by God:**

1. The Heathen who sins against only one requirement from God, nature.
2. The Moral man who sins against 2 requirements from God, nature and conscience.
3. The Religious Man who sins against thousands of requirements from God, the oracles, and His Word.

**We have answered the 3 questions from Newell regards the religious man's arguments.**

Application:

This should be comforting to us as believers – in spite of any circumstances in life - **God's faithfulness is sure. His promises to us are guaranteed.**