

## Great Is His Faithfulness 2021-12-05

### Romans 3:1-8

*Then what advantage has the Jew? Or what is the value of circumcision? 2 Much in every way. To begin with, the Jews were entrusted with the oracles of God. 3 What if some were unfaithful? Does their faithlessness nullify the faithfulness of God? 4 By no means! Let God be true though every one were a liar, as it is written,*

*“That you may be justified in your words, and prevail when you are judged.”*

*5 But if our unrighteousness serves to show the righteousness of God, what shall we say? That God is unrighteous to inflict wrath on us? (I speak in a human way.) 6 By no means! For then how could God judge the world? 7 But if through my lie God’s truth abounds to his glory, why am I still being condemned as a sinner? 8 And why not do evil that good may come?—as some people slanderously charge us with saying. Their condemnation is just.*

Apologist Paul foresee Jew objections/reactions from Chapters 1 & 2

- Unbelieving heart rather rationalize than repent.
- God’s faithfulness is a warning to the unrepentant but a comfort for the Christian.

Paul was regularly accused of being heretic, speak lies, perverting the Word of God.

- He seems to call into question the special position of Israel and throw out the entire Old Testament. Romans 3:1-2

If being a descendant of Abraham/circumcised was of no value, what good are God’s promises to Abraham?

- Great advantage! Jews had the privilege of being uniquely entrusted with God’s Word!
  - “oracles God” refer to whole Old Testament with special reference to God’s promises of salvation
- Advantage was not that you were instantly saved, but had what leads to salvation and corresponding blessings.
  - Spiritual privileges are no advantage if not used/responded in faith/obedience.

We have greater privilege/responsibility today.....have God’s full/final revelation.

- Bible is a great treasure God entrusted to us. Treat it as such. Wesley quote

Jews assumed: Unbelief of some Jews would nullify God’s covenant promises to Abraham (He made promises and wasn’t going to keep them). Therefore, God’s a LIAR!

### Romans 3:3-4, 1:25

- Fulfillment of God’s purposes/promises does not depend on man’s faithfulness but on God’s.

Human unfaithfulness does not nullify God’s faithfulness, it causes it to stand out.

- message of grace: God forgives sin and gains glory because of His forgiveness.

Ways unrighteousness/unfaithfulness/sin bring out God's righteousness/faithfulness/holiness:

- Awareness of sin leads to repentance/salvation, see need for God's help/strength
  - God's forgiveness becomes part of our testimony to others

God's faithfulness/righteousness manifests in 2 ways: blessing those who believe/obey His covenant promises or punishes/judges/chastens those who reject/disobey His covenant promises.

- God is faithful even when He judges/chastens His people for sin. Psalm 51:1
  - David's sin makes God's judgment of David true to God's nature.

If sin makes God look good, then God is unjust to punish sinners. Romans 3:5-6

- They do not deny their sins but defend/justify it and expect thanks, not judgment!
  - If God does not judge Jews because God "benefited" then He can't judge anyone.

Depraved thinking goes to ultimate evil/illogical conclusion. Romans 3:7-8, 1:28, 6:1-2

- Sin more so God has more opportunity to demonstrate His grace, love, mercy.

To have grace, must have sin. Some abuse and turn grace into license to sin.

- against holiness of God. Thus receive "just condemnation".

God's promises to Christians are assured because of His faithfulness, not ours. 2

Corinthians 1:20, 2 Timothy 2:11-13, Philipians 1:6

- God's faithfulness is a comfort for the Christian and a warning for the unrepentant.
  - Be careful not use questions/objections as excuse not to repent and trust in Jesus.
    - Wrestle with questions in the spirit of submission, not defiance.
- God is faithful to bless if we believe/obey His covenant promises and faithful to judge/chasten if reject/disobey His covenant promises.
  - In both: Great is His faithfulness!

Wesley quote:

I am a creature of a day, passing thru life as an arrow thru the air. I am a spirit come from God and returning to God, just hovering over the great gulf 'till, a few moments hence, I am no more seen; I drop into an unchangeable eternity! I want to know one thing—the way to heaven, how to land safe on that happy shore. God Himself has condescended to teach me the way. For this very end He came from heaven. He hath written it down in a book. O give me that book! At any price, give me the book of God!

*John Wesley*