

# “Grace & Peace to You”

## A STUDY IN THE BOOK OF ROMANS

Voice of China and Asia

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### ROMANS 20 PART 1: LEGALISM “Let God Be True”

READ: ROM 2:25-3:8

#### “OUTWARD” CLEANLINESS:

The Jewish people had a religion of **outward action**, not **inward attitude**. They may have been moral on the outside, but what about the heart?

➤ JESUS’ indictment of the Sadducees in MATT 23

➤ ISA 1:11-18 {READ}

➤ The Law did NOT have the power to change... it was “transient / temporal” – **On the surface...**

2 COR 3:9-11 For if there was glory in **THE MINISTRY OF CONDEMNATION** – that is, **THE LAW**, **THE MINISTRY OF RIGHTEOUSNESS** [**THE GOSPEL**] must far exceed it in glory.

<sup>10</sup> Indeed, in this case, what **once had glory** has come to have no glory at all, because of **the glory that surpasses it**.

<sup>11</sup> For if what was being “brought to an end, [**THE LAW**]” [was fading away] came with glory, much more will **what is permanent have glory** [**THE GOSPEL**]

#### TRUST IN RITUAL:

ROM 2:25-29 For **circumcision** indeed is of value **IF YOU obey THE LAW**, but **IF YOU break THE LAW**, **your circumcision** becomes **uncircumcision**.

#### Purpose of Circumcision:

ROM 4:11 [Passion Trans] It was later that [Abraham] received **the external sign of circumcision as a seal** to **confirm that God had already transferred his righteousness to him by faith**, **while he was still uncircumcised**.

So now this qualifies him to **become the father of all who believe** among the non-Jewish people.

<sup>26</sup> So, **IF** a man **who is uncircumcised keeps** the precepts of **THE LAW**, will not his **uncircumcision** be regarded as **[true] circumcision?**

<sup>27</sup> Then he who is **physically uncircumcised but keeps THE LAW** will condemn you who **have the written code AND circumcision but break THE LAW**.

<sup>28</sup> For **no one is a Jew** who is **merely one outwardly**, nor is **circumcision outward and physical**.

<sup>29</sup> But a Jew is **one inwardly**, and **circumcision is a matter of the heart**, **accomplished by the Spirit**, not by **THE LETTER**.

**[THIS one’s] praise [does NOT come] from man but from God.**

- The Jews **praised each other** for their obedience to THE LAW, but the important thing is the **“praise of God”** and **NOT the praise of men** (ROM. 2:29).
  - Realizing the name “JEW” comes from “JUDAH” meaning **“To give yourself in PRAISE,”** **this statement takes on added meaning** (GEN. 29:35; 49:8).
- A true JEW is one who has had an *inward* spiritual experience in the heart, and not merely an outward physical operation.

## ROMANS 20 PART 2: LEGALISM “Let God Be True”

### ARROGANCE:

In **ROMANS 3:1–8**, Paul sums up the argument and refutes those **“imagined JEWS”** who would try to debate with him. These **“opponents”** had raised **6 questions**. *(Do these questions represent the attitude of some Members of the ROMAN CHURCH?)*

Their “Arrogance” is portrayed by Paul in the *“Unseen Opponents”* questions. As we have seen before, Paul had a long history of dealing with the **“Unbelieving Jews”** and had faced numerous occasions of persecution either at their hands, or inspired by them.

### QUESTION #1

**ROM 3:1-8** Then **what advantage** has the **[LAW-abiding]** JEW? Or **what is the value of circumcision?**

**PAUL’S REPLY:** <sup>2</sup> Much in every way. To begin with, the JEWS were entrusted with the oracles of **GOD**.

**ROM 9:4** They are Israelites, and **to them belong** the **Adoption**, the **Glory**, the **Covenants**, the **Giving of THE LAW**, the **Worship**, and the **Promises**. <sup>5</sup> To them belong the **Patriarchs**, and from their race, according to the flesh, is the **Christ**, who is God over all, blessed forever. Amen. (More on this later)

### QUESTION #2

<sup>3</sup> What **IF** some **were unfaithful?** Does their **faithlessness** **nullify** **[Katargeo]** the **faithfulness of GOD?**

**PAUL’S REPLY:** <sup>4</sup> **By no means!** **Let GOD be true** though everyone were a liar, as it is written... **[Psa 51:4]**

The full quotation is:

*Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, “That you may be **justified in your words** and **prevail when you are judged.**”*

- Righteousness is a result of **“faith”** ... NOT performance
- THIS IS the record of SCRIPTURE since the first recorded act of “a sacrifice” – **by Abel**

**HEB 11:4** By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous, God commending him by accepting his gifts.

- The “unfaithfulness of some” brings judgment upon them... NOT the faithful
- “The righteous shall LIVE by faith...”

### QUESTION #3

<sup>5</sup> **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 - being exceedingly facetious.)

**PAUL’S REPLY:**<sup>6</sup> **By no means!** For then how could God judge the world?

- If ALL sin was accepted by God as simply a “*reason to show His righteousness*” then there would be NO judgment of sin... AT ALL.
- The Righteousness of God is NOT seen in “*accepting our sin*” but in removing it BY the placing the Judgment of SIN upon His Son... and THIS to be realized ONLY by those who Believe in Jesus Christ.

### QUESTIONS #4 & 5

<sup>7</sup> **But IF** through my lie GOD’S truth abounds to his glory, why am I still being condemned as a sinner?

<sup>8</sup> **And** why not do evil that good may come? (as some people slanderously charge us with saying).

- THESE may be among the “*most ignorant questions ever proposed...*”

**ROM 3:24-25** “...and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, <sup>25</sup> whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith.”

- What Paul presents is someone saying, “IF God gets glory by ‘*forgiving our sins and showing mercy*’ THEN the more we sin the more He is glorified”

**PAUL’S REPLY:** Their condemnation is just. – **Because:** “*God judges the world righteously*” This hardly needs a response... **BUT Paul offers it with a Bold Rebuke... GOD Judges... RIGHTEOUSLY!**

What “condemnation” they receive BECAUSE of their sin IS justly given... By God

### QUESTION #6

<sup>9</sup> **What then?** Are we JEWS any better off? [ROM 9:1-5 / 10:1-4]

**PAUL’S REPLY:** NO, not at all. For we have already charged that all, both JEWS and GREEKS, are under sin

- Instead of glorifying God among the Gentiles, *the JEWS were actually dishonoring God*; and Paul had quoted **ISAIAH 52:5** to prove his point **[vs 24]**.

**There is ONLY one way:**

- To escape the *“pending wrath of God’s Judgment”* and
- To *“obtain the righteousness by which we may LIVE”* – Now and in Eternity ...
- HOW? Through **FAITH** in Jesus Christ!