

Romans 3:1-19

Pray that God would give you sight of His righteousness through His word, that you would know the depth of difference between the goodness of God, and the goodness of people.

Read Romans 3:1-19

Look Closer... in 3:1, Paul says, “then what advantage has the Jew? Or what is the value of circumcision? Much in every way.” However, later in 3:9, Paul says, “What then? Are we Jews any better off? No, not at all.”

C’mon Paul, you’re being confusing.

Actually, he’s making his point about the unrighteousness of humanity, and the pure righteousness of God in a beautiful way. When he says in 3:1 that there are advantages to being of Jewish heritage, he explains by saying that they were “entrusted with the oracles of God.” Paul is right! That is an advantage. If righteousness is the goal, then the word of God is an advantage like none other. However, if we read the history of Israel in the Old Testament, it’s clear that they were not faithful, thus Paul says, “What if some were unfaithful? Does their faithfulness nullify the faithfulness of God?” (3:3).

Israel was unfaithful, and proved themselves to be just like the rest of the world (3:11-18). So was Israel any better off in the quest for righteousness? “No, not at all.”

Think about it... Paul asks, “Does their unfaithfulness nullify the faithfulness of God?” It’s a good question. Israel was God’s priestly nation, His representatives who were meant to lead the world back into God’s blessing. That’s why Paul says in v. 19 Paul says that the whole world is accountable to the Law. The Law was for Israel; Israel represented the world; therefore the whole world is accountable to the Law.

So if God’s plan didn’t work because Israel’s unfaithfulness, is God unfaithful? Paul answers, “By no means!” God’s righteousness and faithfulness is outside of our faithfulness. We cannot lay on Him our own conditions of faithfulness.

So what happens now? How will humanity gain right standing (righteousness) with God? Paul will talk about that in the next section of chapter 3.

Pray about it... God’s righteousness is mysterious, as we’ve been learning about God throughout the first part of Romans. We cannot understand it, yet it has saved us! Pray that God would give you sight to see what you are able to see, and that even what is not understandable, would cause you to be drawn nearer to Him.

“Where awe in God is present, nearness to God results.”