

ROMANS



Introduction:

Paul's statements could have caused the Jews to wonder what God's real purpose for them was.

They could have even provoked an identity crisis!

Text: Romans 3:1-20

What advantage, then, is there in being a Jew, or what value is there in

circumcision?

Much in every way! First of all, the Jews have been entrusted with the very words of God.

What if some were unfaithful? Will their unfaithfulness nullify God's faithfulness?

Not at all! Let God be true, and every human being a liar.

As it is written: "So that you may be proved right when you speak and prevail when you judge."

But if our unrighteousness brings out God's righteousness more clearly, what shall we say?

That God is unjust in bringing his wrath on us? (I am using a human argument.)

Certainly not! If that were so, how could God judge the world?
Someone might argue,

"If my falsehood enhances God's truthfulness and so increases his glory, why am I still condemned as a sinner?"

Why not say—as some slanderously claim that we say — "Let us do evil that good may result"?

Their condemnation is just!
What shall we conclude then?
Do we have any advantage?
Not at all!

For we have already made the charge that Jews and Gentiles alike are all under the power of sin.

As it is written: "There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God.

All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even

one."

"Their throats are open graves; their tongues practice deceit."

"The poison of vipers is on their lips."

"Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness."

"Their feet are swift to shed blood; ruin and misery mark their ways, and the way of peace they do not know." There is no fear of God before their eyes."



Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God.

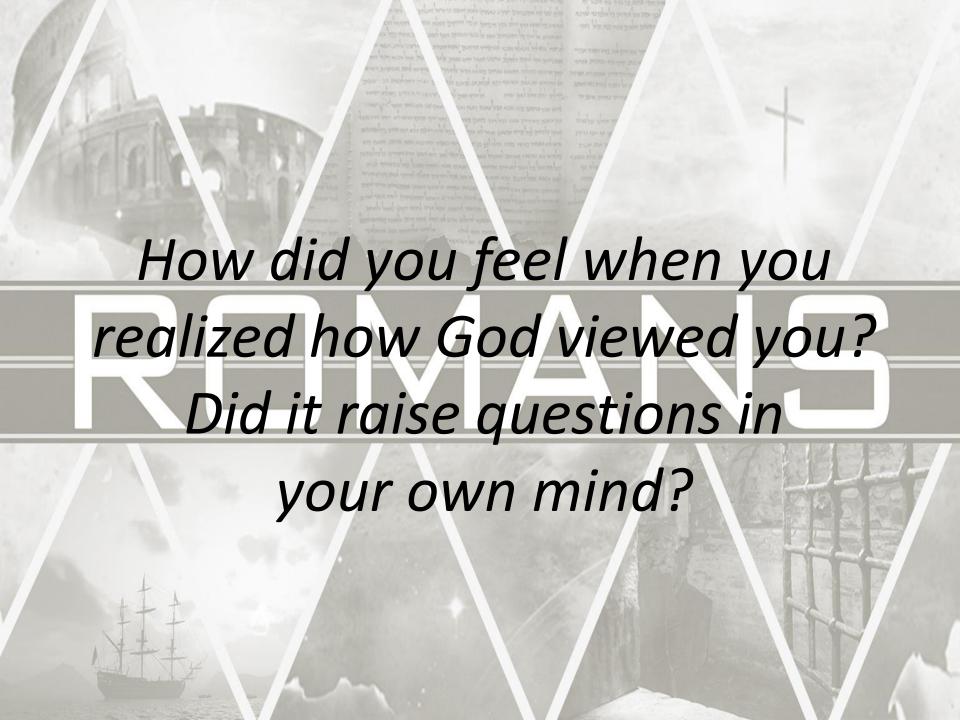


Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God's sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin. Romans 3:1-20



The Jews had thought that their purpose was to RULE and to give an example of PERFECTION, but Paul had exposed their WEAKNESSES and HYPOCRISY.

Eventually, God will bring you face to face with your own **WEAKNESSES**.



The Jews:

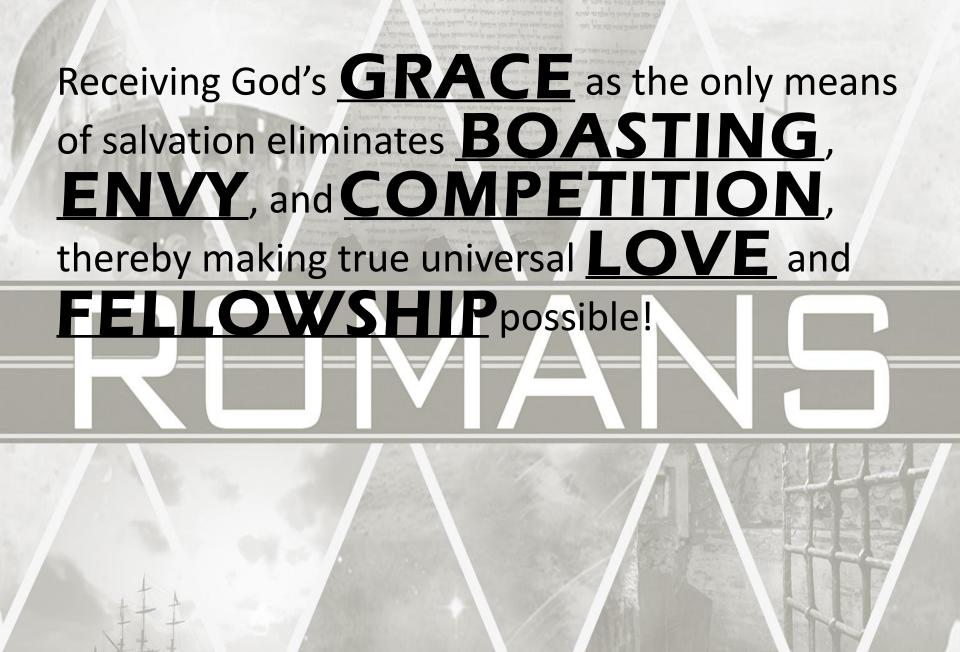
Had been **ENTRUSTED** with the very **WORDS** of God.

Had given God an opportunity to demonstrate

His RIGHTEOUSNESS and JUSTICE.

Demonstrated that **EVERYONE** stands in need of God's **GRACE**, and that there is only one way into proper **FELLOWSHIP** with God.

God's plan of salvation is universal. It took time for the Jews to understand that it wasn't limited to their nation, but was for everyone.

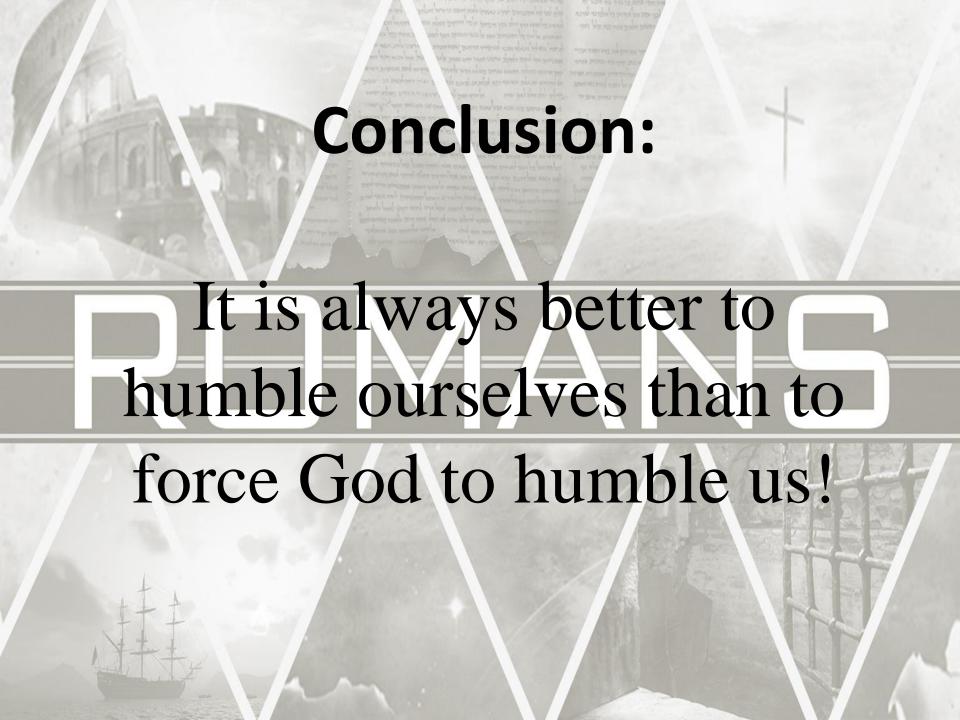




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God sometimes has to humble Christians before He can use them to reach others, and the means by which He does this can be very unpleasant!





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