

Romans 3:1-20

¹ What advantage then has the Jew, or what *is* the profit of circumcision? ² Much in every way! Chiefly because to them were committed the oracles of God.

³ For what if some did not believe? Will their unbelief make the faithfulness of God without effect? ⁴ Certainly not! Indeed, let God be true but every man a liar. As it is written: “That You may be justified in Your words, And may overcome when You are judged.” ⁵ But if our unrighteousness demonstrates the righteousness of God, what shall we say? *Is* God unjust who inflicts wrath? (I speak as a man.) ⁶ Certainly not! For then how will God judge the world? ⁷ For if the truth of God has increased through my lie to His glory, why am I also still judged as a sinner? ⁸ And *why* not say, “Let us do evil that good may come”? — as we are slanderously reported and as some affirm that we say. Their condemnation is just.

⁹ What then? Are we better *than they*? Not at all. For we have previously charged both Jews and Greeks that they are all under sin. ¹⁰ As it is written: “There is none righteous, no, not one; ¹¹ There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. ¹² They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one.” ¹³ “Their throat *is* an open tomb; With their tongues they have practiced deceit”; “The poison of asps *is* under their lips”; ¹⁴ “Whose mouth *is* full of cursing and bitterness.” ¹⁵ “Their feet *are* swift to shed blood; ¹⁶ Destruction and misery *are* in their ways; ¹⁷ And the way of peace they have not known.” ¹⁸ “There is no fear of God before their eyes.” ¹⁹ Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. ²⁰ Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law *is* the knowledge of sin.

Do the Jews have any advantages? Yes. Their chief advantage is that they were entrusted with the oracles of God.

Objection #1: If God promised to bless the Jews and if the Jews are not blessed, then hasn't God been faithless?

Objection #2: If our sin ultimately brings glory to God, then why is our sin punished? Shouldn't it be rewarded instead?

Objection #3: If our sin ultimately brings glory to God, then aren't we doing him a favor by sinning? Shouldn't we just sin more and more?

So if we Jews have advantages, does that mean that we are better or more protected than the Gentiles? No, because all have sinned. The Jewish advantages are not saving advantages.

The Jews are indicted as sinners by their own scriptures. (Psalm 14:1-3; Psalm 5:9; Psalm 140:3; Psalm 10:7; Isaiah 59:7-8; Psalm 36:1)

Thus both Jew and Gentile stand guilty before God. They are in the same boat, and that boat is sinking. Without Jesus Christ, the book of Romans would end at verse 20.