

Romans: Every Mouth Stopped
Romans 3:1-20

But when he heard it, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. ¹³... For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners." (Matthew 9:12-13)

#1 - God is righteous through and through (vv. 1-8)

- The logic of vv. 1-4:
 - V. 1- If Jews and Gentiles are equal in the judgment, what's the Jewish advantage?
 - V. 2 - The Jews have been entrusted with the promises ("the oracles") of God.
 - V. 3 - But if some have not believed or obeyed, doesn't that mean God can't be faithful to His Word?
 - V. 4 - No, God is not unfaithful, because judgment is just as much a part of God's righteousness as salvation.
 - The bottom line: it is a severe misunderstanding of the Bible to think that our internal faithlessness can be overcome through our external faithfulness.
- The objections of vv. 5-8:
 - Since God's judging faithfulness is demonstrated in disobedience, wouldn't it make sense to disobey even more? To sin more to highlight God's justice more?
 - Paul says that these objections are wicked perversions of the gospel and worthy of God's condemnation.
- So...
 - Treasure the preaching of the gospel.
 - Are you making sure that it's a priority to hear God's Word?
 - And what are you doing with what you're hearing?
 - Trust the God of the gospel.
 - Do you have the life of God in your soul?
 - Are you praying for others to experience the power of Christ?
 - Beware of excuses for unbelief.
 - What excuses are you making for not trusting in Christ right now?
 - Have you thought about how those excuses will stand up on the Last Day?

#2 - We are unrighteous through and through (vv. 9-20)

- We are under the power of sin—all of us. (vv. 9-18)
 - We don't just do sinful things; we are sinful people.

Sin is like a master or a king, and reigns over us and in us. Not that it coerces us to do what we don't want to do, but makes us want to do what we ought not to do. We are not innocent victims of sin. We are co-conspirators with sin against God. (John Piper)
 - And the “we” are all people—religious and irreligious alike.
 - The Romans 1 man (the rebel) needs the gospel.
 - The Romans 2 man (the religious) needs the gospel.
 - The Jews were distinct in their possession of a perfect law.
 - They Jews were identical in their possession of a depraved heart.
 - The indictment:
 - Our minds are corrupted. (v. 11)
 - Our wills are perverted. (v. 12)
 - Our speech is corrupted. (vv. 13-14)
 - Our relationships are ruined. (vv. 15-17)
 - Our hearts are foolish (vv. 10, 18)
- We cannot be saved by the Law, but the Law can lead us to the Savior. (vv. 19-20)
 - The point of Romans 1:18-3:19 is distilled here, which is that we are all lawbreakers.

Our best duties are as so many splendid sins ... you must not only be made sick of your ... sin, but you must be sick of your righteousness, of all your duties and performances. There must be a deep conviction before you can be brought out of your self-righteousness; it is the last idol taken out of your heart. (George Whitfield)
 - The Law is good because it tells us what God already knows—that we are broken and that we need Jesus!

*Not the labor of my hands
Can fulfill Thy law's demands;
Could my zeal no respite know,
Could my tears forever flow,
All for sin could not atone;
Thou must save, and Thou alone. (“Rock of Ages”, Augustus Toplady)*