### Romans

## Chapter 3

1So in what way is a Jew superior, or of what benefit is circumcision?  
  
2It’s really a huge benefit in every way!  
  
For God entrusted His Word to the hands [of the circumcised]. 3And if some [of them] don’t believe; does their lack of faith prove that faith in God is worthless?  
  
4May that never happen! Rather, let God be proven true even if that makes every man a liar!  
  
As it is written:  
  
 ‘So, Your decisions are righteous,  
 And in Your judgments, You’ve proven just.’  
 [Psalm 51:4, LXX]  
  
5However, if our unrighteousness [is exposed by] God’s righteousness... What can we say?  
  
Then God won’t be wrong when He brings His wrath, will He?  
  
So I’m saying this to everyone:  
  
6May that never happen! Otherwise, how could God judge the world?  
  
7But if I should tell a lie, and that makes the truth of God more abundant, to His glory... Then why am I still judged as a sinner?  
  
8Well, it’s [because you’re doing such things] that people aren’t only slandering us, they’re proving that some of us are saying:  
  
 ‘Let’s do bad things so that good things can happen.’  
  
And this is why such a condemnation is so well deserved!  
  
  
9Is there anything that makes us [Jews] better than [gentiles]?  
  
No, not at all... For we’ve proven to you that both Jews and Greeks are sinners!  
  
10As it’s written:  
  
 ‘No one is righteous… No not one!’ [Psalm 14:1, LXX]  
  
 11‘For there’s no one who truly understands  
 And no one is searching for God,  
 12Since all have strayed and are useless.  
 Also, no one is kind… No not one!’  
 [paraphrase of Psalm 51:2-3, LXX]  
  
 13‘For their throats are like open graves;  
 With their tongues, they practice deceit.’  
 [Psalm 5:9]  
  
 ‘And the poison of asps is under their lips.’ [Psalm 140:3]  
  
 14‘With cursing and shouting,  
 Their mouths have been filled.’  
 [Psalm 10:7, LXX]  
  
 15‘And their feet are ready to go and spill blood.  
 16In their swath, is misery and destruction;  
 17The road to peace, they’ve not known.’  
 [Isaiah 59:7-8, LXX]  
  
 18‘For, in their eyes, there’s no fear of God.’ [Psalm 36:1]  
  
  
19Now, we know that everything that was said in the Law was meant for just those who are under the Law… For it stopped every mouth and proved the whole world to be deserving of God’s punishment.  
  
20But nobody’s going to be righteous before Him just by obeying the [Jewish] Law... Since all the Law did was help us to understand what sin is.  
  
21Therefore, even the absence of the Law is revealing the righteousness of God… Yes, the Law and the Prophets all testified to this!  
  
22So this is why the righteousness of God is now coming to all those who believe and are showing their faith in Jesus the Anointed One!  
  
And it’s why there’s no longer any difference between us, 23since we’ve all sinned and failed to live up to God’s glory.  
  
24Understand that being called ‘righteous’ is just a gift that [God] kindly gives to us through the ransom that was paid by the Anointed Jesus.  
  
25For God sent him here as a sin offering — so that when we have faith in his blood, the sins that we committed 26(back when God was just tolerating us) can be forgiven.(back when God was just tolerating us) can be forgiven.<sup class="difference">[Syr]  
  
And this is what allows us to look into His righteous ways today… For He proves Himself righteous by calling [all] those who have faith in Jesus, ‘righteous!’  
  
  
27So, where is our reason [as Jews] for boasting?  
  
It’s gone!  
  
Does it come from obeying the [Jewish] Law?  
  
No! It comes through the Law of Faith... 28Since we believe that a man is called ‘righteous’ because of his faith, not by following the works of the [Jewish] Law!  
  
29[Therefore, do you think that our God is] only the God of the Jews? And that He’s not also [the God of] the gentiles?  
  
[Yes, He’s the God] of the gentiles also!  
  
30So God is really the One who calls both the circumcised and the uncircumcised ‘righteous’ because of their faith.  
  
31Then, can we say that our faith overrides the Law?  
  
Never may that happen! Rather, [our faith] makes the Law stronger!