

Comments About Romans 3

This article is from the "Among Friends" section of the Church of God Big Sandy's website, churchofgodbigandy.com. It was posted for the weekend of Jan. 27, 2018.

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BIG SANDY, Texas—Recently, I began a series of brief articles to discuss chapters in the book of Romans. This week, we will talk about chapter 3.

May this project encourage you to review the valuable history found in the book of Romans.

Follow-up question

Many years ago, the letters in the New Testament of the Bible were organized as chapters. The last part of chapter 2 mentioned spiritual circumcision (Acts 2:25-29).

Notice verse 29.

Romans 2:29—"But he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the Spirit, not in the letter; whose praise is not from men but from God."

Many Bible students believe that Romans 3:1-2 is a follow-up to the concluding verses of chapter 2. Paul had just diminished the role of physical circumcision. But he wanted to show the benefit of being a Jewish believer.

Romans 3:1-2—"What advantage then has the Jew, or what is the profit of circumcision? Much in every way! Chiefly because to them were committed the oracles of God."

Ridiculous questions

At various junctures in the book of Romans, Paul asked questions that could be considered ridiculous. In each case, he answered "God forbid" in the King James Version ("certainly not" in the New King James Version).

- Should the unbelief of people cause people to question the faithfulness of God (verses 3-4)?
- Is God unjust because He gets angry (verses 5-8)?

All have sinned

Romans 1:16 mentioned a phrase ("for the Jew first and also for the Greek") that was repeated in Romans 2:7-10. The phrase showed that the Jews had first access to God. But Paul did not want the Jews to feel superior to the gentiles. Hence Romans 3:9.

Romans 3:9—"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."

■ In verses 10-18, Paul paraphrased from various psalms to show that Jews and gentiles sin.

Law reveals sin

■ Paul reminded the believers that the law revealed sin (verses 19-20).

■ Paul wrote: "By law is the knowledge of sin" (verse 20).

He said this principle in other chapters.

Romans 4:15—"Where there is no law, there is no transgression."

Romans 5:13—"Sin is not imputed when there is no law."

Romans 7:7—"I would not have known sin except through the law."

Romans 7:8—"Apart from the law, sin was dead."

Through faith

■ Paul mentioned the righteousness of God apart from the law (Romans 3:21).

■ Paul mentioned the righteousness of God through faith (verse 22).

■ All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God (verse 23).

■ There is redemption through Christ Jesus (verses 24-26).

■ A person's boasting should not be in the law (verses 27-30).

Another ridiculous question

■ Paul asked another question that could be considered ridiculous (verse 31).

Romans 3:31—"Do we then make void the law through faith? Certainly not! On the contrary, we establish the law."