

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Our Mission: Reaching Out to Leaders Who Can Change the World.

Romans

A New Life

Lesson #4: The Verdict

INTRODUCTION

What are some of the thoughts and feelings you might have if you were on trial for committing a serious crime... and you knew you were guilty?

OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION

Read Romans 3:1-20

Note: This chapter forms the bridge between Section 1 "Sin" and Section 2 "Salvation." In the first section (vv. 1–20), Paul deals with condemnation and concludes that the whole world—Jew and Gentile alike—is under sin. In the last section (vv. 21–31), he introduces the theme of justification by faith, which will be his theme in the next two chapters.¹

1. What were some of the advantages in being a Jew? **Ex 16:9; Dt 14:2; Amos 3:2(a)**
2. What is the difference between being a *physical* descendent of Abraham and being a *spiritual* one?
3. What advantages has God granted to you? **Matt 22:1-9**
4. How is belonging to a Christian church much like being a Jew under the Old Covenant? **Heb 4:2**
5. Why might some Jews have accused God of unfaithfulness and injustice? vv. 3-8 **Jn 5:39**
6. In the role of prosecutor, Paul has charged that Jew and Gentiles are alike under sin. (v.9) How does Scripture support his charge? vv. 10-18. **Ps 14:1; Matt 15:18**
7. God's law does not make us righteous but exposes our sin. How has the law impacted your life?
8. If the gospel means "good news" what is "good" about recognizing our sinfulness?

APPLICATION

Take time to thank God for being not only just but also merciful and gracious to all.

As Paul has already forcefully declared in the first two chapters of Romans, both the pagan Gentile and the religious Jew are sinful and stand condemned before a holy God. But human nature strongly resists that truth. Dr. Donald Grey Barnhouse said, "It is only stubborn self-pride that keeps man from the confession to God that would bring release, but that way he refuses to take. Man stands before God today like a little boy who swears with crying and tears that he has not been anywhere near the jam jar, and who with an air of outraged innocence, pleads the justice of his position, in total ignorance of the fact that a good spoonful of the jam has fallen on his shirt under his chin and is plainly visible to all but himself." (God's Wrath: Romans 2–3:1–20 [Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1953], p. 191).²

¹Wiersbe, Warren W.: *Wiersbe's Expository Outlines on the New Testament*. Wheaton, Ill. : Victor Books, 1997, c1992, S. 369

²MacArthur, John: *Romans*. Chicago : Moody Press, 1996, c1991, c1994, S. 178