

## Romans Lesson 4 Articles

### God's Faithfulness

(3:1-8)

Having demolished Jewish self-confidence, Paul now gets the Jews to count their blessings.

For one thing, the Jews have access to God's word. For another, they are part of God's plan to save not just the Jews, but the whole world. Even their failures can show how God acts in justice and mercy.

### No one is righteous

(3:9-20)

Paul concludes, using quotations from the Old Testament, that both Jews and Gentiles are in the same situation. All have sinned. For Jews, the law has merely shown them the full extent of their sin. If they think otherwise, they are adding pride and self-deception to their long list of failings.

### The gospel answer

But now Paul comes to the good news. Forgiveness and peace with God are freely available through Jesus Christ.<sup>1</sup>

**3:20 — *Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin.***

God gave His people the law so they could understand their need for grace, not so that they could try to “earn” their way into His favor. The law shows us our sin; it doesn't empower us to follow it.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Knowles, A. (2001). *The Bible guide* (1st Augsburg books ed., pp. 568–569). Minneapolis, MN: Augsburg.

<sup>2</sup> Stanley, C. F. (2005). *The Charles F. Stanley life principles Bible: New King James Version* (Ro 3:20). Nashville, TN: Nelson Bibles.