

ROMANS: TRANSFORMED BY GRACE

(Romans 3:9-20 & Galatians 3:19-25)

Wake up; messy hair/breath. How do you know? Look in mirror. Mirror shows us. **CAN'T** fix hair. =The OT LAW

Paul is addressing the **Church** in Rome: **Gentiles** (& the lost/holiness) & **Jews** (& lost Jewish outliers)
Ch. 1 Gentile sins (Open rebellion against God & His holy nature) =Gentiles w/o Ch. =**unrighteous**
Ch. 2 Jewish sins (Hidden sins; pride; judgmentalism) =Jews w/o Christ =**unrighteous**
= Theme: **NO partiality with God** (**ALL stand equally guilty**) **Ro. 3:9** "What then? Are we better *than they*? **Not at all; for we have already charged that both Jews and Gentiles are all under sin;**" = Paul's major argument in Chs. 1-2: **EVERYONE IS IN NEED OF SALVATION!**

***Paul drops a bomb w/ this statement:** "Jewishness is sp. = phys." **READ Romans 2:28-29**
²⁸ For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh. ²⁹ But he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter; and his praise is not from people, but from God." "Jew"=God's chosen people =Sp.

-HERE: **Paul making a HUGE paradigm shifting statement** about **God's thoughts on Judaism**
Paul is making the comparison (Ro. 4 & Gal. 4) Believers are true Sons of Abram – who by **FAITH**
Trust in Jesus and believe His resurrection; just as Abram believed God (faith) in future people..

Vs. 9: What then? Are we (JEWS) better *than they* (GENTILES)? **Not at all; for we have already charged that both Jews and Greeks are all under sin;** Both = in need of a Savior/GRACE

"As it is written: There is **no** righteous person, not even one; ¹¹ There is **no one** who understands, There is **no one** who seeks out God; ¹² They have **all** turned aside, together they have become corrupt (**depraved**); **There is no one who does good, There is not even one.**"

¹³ "Their throat is an open grave, With their tongues they keep deceiving,"

"The venom of asps is under their lips"; ¹⁴ "Their mouth is full of cursing and bitterness";

¹⁵ "Their feet are swift to shed blood, ¹⁶ Destruction and misery are in their paths,

¹⁷ And they have not known the way of peace." ¹⁸ "There is no fear of God before their eyes."

What's the worst news you've ever gotten? Job/cancer/died? – (My sister)

***This is the worst news ever written for all people; for ALL religions! =Can't be good enough**

Paul now makes the Argument: - **Our** "goodness" cannot reconcile us to God.

-**Our** obedience to the OT LAW cannot reconcile us to God. B/C *No one* is "good" enough

-ALL of us are **sinner**s. Sin always leads to **death** (spiritual/physical/eternal).

-The **LAW** cannot save us from our sin or death. (**mankind's two biggest problems**)

¹⁹ Now we know that whatever the Law says, it speaks to those who are under the Law, so that every mouth may be closed and all the world may become accountable to God; ²⁰ because by the works of the Law none of mankind will be justified in His sight; for through the Law *comes* knowledge [recognition] of sin. So, the bad news is that none of us can go to heaven on works & the LAW of God is powerless to save us/redeem us. SO what is the purpose of God sending Law?

-**What is the Law?** God's righteous **commands** to help His Covenant people know *how* to live to honor God, worship God, & understand the depth of their sin; The also LAW helps **separate** His Covenant people from a **godless** world. [Worship, dress; marry; eat; how deal with civil strife; how to deal with enemies; war; slavery; death; city of refuge] **Law = right standing God/man**

-**Moral** Law (Truths based on God's very nature) = Eternal *(We live under this law even now)

-**Levitical**/Ceremonial Law (Commands, Orders, Restrictions, Preparations) = Inactive for us

-**Civil** Law: (Instructions, Regulations, & Penalties between people & property) = model for us

3 Functions of the LAW (The Uses of the LAW)

1. First function of the law is meant to give knowledge of Holiness & sin (Rom. 3:20; 4:15; 5:13; 7:7-11), and by showing us our need of pardon and our danger of damnation =to lead us in repentance / faith to Christ. =is to be a mirror reflecting to us both the perfect righteousness of God and our own sinfulness and shortcomings. As Augustine wrote, "*the law bids us, as we try to fulfill its requirements, and become wearied in our weakness under it, to know how to ask the help of grace.*" (Gal. 3:24-25) Therefore the Law has become our guardian to lead us to Christ, so that we may be justified by faith. ²⁵ But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian. ²⁶ For you are all sons *and daughters* of God through faith in Christ Jesus." *Traffic laws

-The Law can only show us that we will NEVER be holy enough to earn heaven. (Ro. 3:23)

-The LAW cannot save. The Christian today is free from the Levitical law *as a system of salvation* **B/C Only Christ can save** (*not law, not works*) (Rom. 6:14; 7:4, 6; 1 Cor. 9:20; Gal. 2:15-19, 3:25),

2. Second function, is the "civil use," is to restrain evil. Though the law cannot change the heart, it can to some extent inhibit lawlessness by its threats of judgment, especially when backed by a civil code that administers punishment for proven offenses (Deut. 13:6-11; 19:16-21; Rom. 13:3, 4). Thus, **it secures civil order**, and serves to protect the righteous from the unjust.

3. Its third function is to guide the regenerate into the good works that God has planned for them (Eph. 2:10). The law tells God's children what will please their heavenly Father. **It could be called their family code.** Christ was speaking of this third use of the law when He said that "those who become His disciples must be taught to do all that He had commanded" (Matt. 28:20), and that obedience to His commands will prove the reality of one's love for Him (John 14:15). *The Christian is free from the law as a system of salvation* (Rom. 6:14; 7:4, 6; 1 Cor. 9:20; Gal. 2:15-19, 3:25), but is "**under the law of Christ**" as a rule of life (1 Cor. 9:21; Gal. 6:2)."
WHY? Because the Law points both to the **NEED** for a Savior and the One who would come to perfectly fulfill the **LAW** and bring salvation from sin and death. *Law (temp) points to Jesus (perm./etern)

READ Galatians 3:19-25: "Why the Law then? It was added (given) on account of the violations (transgressions), having been ordered through angels at the hand of a mediator (Moses), until the Seed (Messiah/Jesus) would come to whom the promise had been made (Jews first, then Gentiles). ²⁰ Now a mediator is not for one *party only*; but God is *only one*. ²¹ Is the Law then contrary to the promises of God? Far from it! For if a law had been given that was able to impart life, then righteousness would indeed have been based on law. ²² But the Scripture has confined everyone under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe. ²³ But before faith came, we were kept in custody under the Law, being confined for the faith that was destined to be revealed. ²⁴ Therefore the Law has become our guardian to lead us to Christ, so that we may be justified by faith. ²⁵ But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian. ²⁶ For you are all sons *and daughters* of God through faith in Christ Jesus."

APPLICATION

- Is there any part of you still trying to earn God's favor? To work your way into heaven?
- If there is no possible way for people to earn their way into heaven through sincerity and good works, then there must be an urgency to share the good news of the gospel with world/religions
- What part does the Old Testament & God's Law play in your life today. It teaches us about God's nature; what pleases Him; the seriousness of His holiness & right worship; how God interacted w/people throughout Redemptive history. How does this change your view of God?