

Romans 3 "Step by Step"

Step by Step is a verse by verse study through the Bible. With this approach we trust that God, in the person of the Holy Spirit, will emphasize specific points and passages to each person; training us in the Word and teaching us how to live with purpose and identity.

Chapter 3 begins with a series of questions that God knew the cynical person would present;

V1-4 If circumcision didn't benefit you, then what advantage did the Jew really have? The main or primary advantage was they had the very Word of God! They were entrusted to copy, protect and follow what He has given them. Even if they did not believe the Word it did not change the fact that God was faithful to them. (2Tim.2:13, Numbers 23:19)

V5-7 The objection to the gospel continues with this question; "If sin gives God the opportunity to show mercy and forgiveness then why am I punished for helping to reveal His attributes?" First off, sin does not glorify God! Secondly, if you follow that logic out then God would not be 'just' nor could He judge the world.

V8-Paul knew that his opponents had made false statements about him. Rather than challenge them he left it alone knowing that they would stand before God concerning their accusations and deceptions. Paul simply denies their lies and moves on. (Good example for many situations)

V9- Paul humbly includes himself in the category of 'sinner'.

V10-12 God knows the inner attitude that often cancels out the outward actions! Consider this comment from Ray Stedman; "The world is filled with millions of religious people, streaming into houses of worship, observing rites and rituals—but are they looking for God? No, says God. They may be looking for peace to answers to their prayers or feelings of religious ecstasy, but God says that there is no one who truly seeks God Himself.

V13-14 The sin we commit with our words begins deep within us and proceeds outward in our speech. (James 3:1-12, Matthew 12:34-37)

V15-18 Man leaves a trail of destruction; in society we see poverty and abuse, in nature we see pollution and demolition. War, crime, violence and disregard are the history of humanity. Why, verse 18 gives us a glimpse as to why mankind brings such heartache upon this world.

V19-Paul quoted scripture using the authority of God's Word to support the Gospel message he was presenting.

V20-The law was not a means by which we could accomplish righteousness, it was a message to confirm our unrighteousness. The purpose of the law was to reveal our need for a Savior.

V21- but now- God reveals how the Law was satisfied and justification was accomplished. *Apart-* Separate, without. Not in replacement but in fulfillment. In Matthew.5:17, 18 Jesus said; *"Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled."*

V22- even-moreover. First there was the Law and in due time came *the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ.* Not faith in God in a general sense. Not faith in the works of Jesus. The gift of righteousness from God requires that we have a relationship with a living person, Jesus Christ. The Bible does not tell us to believe in what Jesus did, instead it tells us; *"to all who received Him, to those who believe in His name, he gave the right to become children of God. (Jn.1:12).*

V23- Everyone has missed the mark God has set for their lives. In the original language of the New Testament sin was an archery term that spoke of missing the target. Speaking of righteousness by our own efforts some missed(sinned) by a little, some missed by a lot but *all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*

V24 But we have been redeemed by His perfect work, the victory of Jesus Christ!

V25 propitiation- Atoning sacrifice. Atone= At one; made right. *By His blood!*

V26- To be just, God could not ignore the sin debt which was owed by man. Jesus perfectly fulfilled the just requirements for righteousness.

V27-How could you boast in your works when what you received was a gift? *"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast."* Ephesians 2:8,9

V28- Justified carries the meaning of 'just as if there is no debt'. *Justified by faith!*

V29, 30-Justification by faith is to everyone who will believe. (Romans 1:16)

V31-Jesus fulfilled the law, we receive His victory by way of faith in Him! (See also Galatians 3:1-25)
