

Without Question...

Romans 3:1~8

Without Question... Salvation comes by Faith, through Jesus Christ... If I do not know anything else, I do know this, that the Gospel of Jesus Christ is true! There is not a “*Doubt*” in my mind, there is “*No Question*” that Jesus is Lord, and that only a “*genuine salvation experience*” with Him is the only possible means of obtaining eternal life... WITHOUT QUESTION...

Everybody’s trusting in something, everybody has something they believe when it comes to God, and Heaven, and Hell, Judgment... But my trust & faith lies in the person of Jesus Christ! Him & Him alone. Like Paul, “*I am persuaded he is able to keep that which I have committed to him against that day.*”

“*I am persuaded...* I have been *convinced* by the word of God... My Faith is not some “*hope so*” thing that I’m hoping is right... My faith is founded on truth...the truth of scripture. Actually, it is the truth of scripture that has formed my faith. The more I read and study this word, the more solid and secure my faith becomes in Christ!

“*Faith comes by hearing...and hearing by the word of God.*” (Romans 10:17)

I want to make a statement that will help us in understanding the passage before us tonight...

The bible is not true, because we say it is... The bible is true because it is truth!

Paul makes a similar statement here in this passage in verses 3~4... In short, Paul states that no matter what men say...the scripture is truth! If every man on earth declared that it was not true, then that would just make every man on earth a liar!

There is a great number of people who don’t believe in the bible...but that doesn’t make it true! And for that matter, just because we say its true, doesn’t make it so... The bible stands alone! It needs not the validation of MEN! It will stand on its own testimony!

Without Question... The scriptures are true, and they are the very words of the living God... I say without question because, if you have any doubt, if you have “any question” that it is true, that you can place your trust in them... You simply need to continue to read and study it, for God will answer any question you might have...

We are reminded of this very truth, here in this section, as Paul deals with the questions and arguments that men are certain to ask... Because God knows the hearts of men, He knows what men will argue, and He knows how they will question Paul’s teaching... Because He knows, he addresses such questions and arguments, and answers them...

This section is really the start, of Paul’s defense of “Grace...”

Because in chapter 2, Paul has just “*destroyed*” the “*Jewish Faith...*”

Paul has *slowly and meticulously* removed the “*false securities*” of the Jewish faith.

Everything they were “*standing on*” to make them better than the Gentiles, Paul has slowly pulled out from under their feet...leaving them standing on “*Level Ground*” with the Gentiles... Everything they “*Trusted In*” to declare them innocent before God, one by one Paul has removed!

Its been said... **A faith that can’t be tested...can’t be trusted!**

Their faith would fail, not because they were not sincere, they most certainly are. It would fail, not because of some intentional or deliberate sin they were guilty of... But it would fail because of what it was based on! The Law... Faith is only as good as the object...

And in 2:17~29...Paul has just tested the “*Jewish Faith*” and has shown that everything they have faith in, can’t be trusted. Paul has proved that every man who places his trust in the law, has sinned in the law, and stands guilty before God! **Their faith is utterly useless!**

That’s the reason for the question in 3:1...

¹What advantage then hath the Jew? or what profit *is there* of circumcision?

If what Paul is saying is true...what’s the point?

If that’s true...then why do all this? ...If none of that matters, then why do it?

Paul if your right...then what your saying is the law is no value, it makes no difference whether we obey it or not!

If we are just as guilty as the Gentiles...then why bother continuing in the Jewish Faith?

If salvation is by “*Grace*,” where do the Jews fit in? Where does circumcision fit in?

A very important question! Because the Jews were “*God’s chosen people!*” and Circumcision is a “*Sign of the Covenant with God!*”

(Vs 1~2)... Paul speaks to their “*Place & Purpose*” in Grace...

¹What advantage then hath the Jew? or what profit *is there* of circumcision?

²*Much every way: chiefly, because that unto them were committed the oracles of God.*

First, He declares they were “*Greatly advantaged*” ...a “*Privileged People*...”

God had chosen them above all the other nations to bring forth the written revelation of Himself! They had something that no one else on earth had claim too...the very “*words*” of God! Since the time of Abraham, the Jews have been a specially blessed people, they have enjoyed the blessings of God’s protection, God’s provision, seen God’s power over and over... No one on earth has enjoyed the “*Blessings of God*” more than the Jewish people!

Paul’s only point is, that that doesn’t automatically make every Jew “*right with God!*” It doesn’t make him *just* and righteous in God’s sight!

As far as “*Grace*” goes... The Jewish people and circumcision played a major role, in that it was through them that God delivered the written oracles which testified of Him and his soon coming Messiah! Their heritage and culture and upbringing played a major role in the “*gospel of God*...” in that from the fall of man, until the birth of Christ, they were used of God to “*pave the way*” for the “*savior of all men*...” The cross would climax everything to this point, in that true circumcision is that of the heart, dying to self! Cutting away the fleshly heart!

In verses 3~4, Paul answers another important question...

(Vs 3~4)³*For what if some did not believe? shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect?*

A question concerning the “*Promises of God!*” If what Paul is saying is true, then nearly all of Israel is condemned! It would mean that instead of being right with God, that they would actually be declared *unfaithful and disobedient to God*. They would be as guilty as the Gentiles! If that is true...

Would the Jews “*Unfaithfulness*” render the “*Promises of God*” null and void?

If the Jews haven’t held up their end of the bargain...if they had broken their part of the covenant, then doesn’t it stand to reason that God would not fulfill His?

Paul answers...⁴**God forbid**: *yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou might be justified in thy sayings, and might overcome when thou art judged.*

⁴**God forbid**: Paul used the “*strongest Greek expression*” that could be used!

Utterly IMPOSSIBLE! A word that left no provision for failure, none!

No matter how men respond, God is absolutely faithful to keep His word!

⁴**God forbid**: *yea, let God be true, but every man a liar...* This statement is really more of an illustration! Paul is stating the fact, that “if every man on earth disagreed with God, then all that would do is simply make every man on earth a liar, and wrong! It would not change the fact that God is right, and faithful to what He says!

He goes on to quote the testimony of their beloved King David, to this same truth!
...let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou might be justified in thy sayings, and might overcome when thou art judged.

King David found this to be true, when he miserably failed God... While at the same time, God was faithful to forgive David, and restore him!

God would “*Uphold*” His end of the bargain no matter what!

God’s Unwavering Faithfulness lies at the very “heart” of Grace!
(Unmerited favor!)

God’s goodness in contrast with our wickedness!

Having said that, that then brings up another question...

(Vs 5~6) ⁵*But if our unrighteousness commend the righteousness of God, what shall we say? Is God unrighteous who takes vengeance? (I speak as a man)*

By preaching his “*Gospel of Grace...*” in one aspect, the “*Sinfulness of Man*” only led to “*Glorifying God!*” Which is true... God is never more honored, never more praised, than when he “*Forgives*” men for their sin! Men praise God the most, when God’s tender mercies are poured out on them!

(I speak as a man)..... “Humanly Speaking...” “According to human logic...”

Knowing that, Paul answers the question that no doubt skeptics, unregenerate man will ask! Passages like this really encourage me. He did the same thing in Corinthians... In writing the “Holy Ghost Inspired” words, he points out when he is not speaking in the spirit! It’s the same as to say, that what I’m saying would never come out of the mouth of God!

The question is, Is it fair of God to JUDGE sinners if he is brought glory by the same?
Why doesn’t He just forgive everyone?

These people reflect their “*theology*” by statements like... “I just can’t believe that a loving God would send anyone to hell!” These folks believe everyone will be forgiven eventually!

But Paul answers...⁶**God forbid: for then how shall God judge the world?**

IMPOSSIBLE! If that were the case, then He would not be fair at all! And he could not judge the world, which He will! Verse 6 is just a reminder, that even though all men are guilty before a God of Grace, that they will not escape his wrath! He will not overlook sin!

God does not encourage sin, or condone sin in order to glorify himself! God forbid! God hates sin! It was his hatred of sin that caused Him to send His son to die on the cross!

Verses 5~6 reveal a “misconception” that many have today of the message of Grace...
That through the “*Gospel of Grace...*” God tolerates SIN! Not SO!

That leads into the question posed in verses 7~8...

(Vs 7~8) ⁷*For if the truth of God hath more abounded through my lie unto his glory; why yet am I also judged as a sinner?* ⁸*And not rather, (as we be slanderously reported, and as some affirm that we say,) Let us do evil, that good may come? whose damnation is just.*

A “misconception” that many have today of the message of Grace...

A misconception that Paul wants to make very clear!

That for a person to continue in sin is ok is absolutely not true!

(as we be slanderously reported, and as some affirm that we say,)

Many have the perverted idea, because of Grace, its no big deal, God will overlook!



They see that having “*God’s mercy & forgiveness*” as the basis of ones faith instead of strict laws and codes... will only give a license to sin!

Not true Paul says! Absolutely Not true!...

Look how Paul describes a man who thinks that way...

...whose damnation is just.

In short... “*Anyone who says or believes such a thing, manifest a wicked heart!*”

It simply reveals a heart that has never been truly circumcised!

Beloved... That the “*Only Hope*” for any of us here this morning, is that of a “*Changed Heart*” which only comes through Jesus Christ! Outside of that, without a *changed heart*, no one will escape the Judgment of God! To have an “*Outward*” adherence to religion, yet not have an inward change of heart, will be of absolutely no value to you come judgment day. Ye must be born again...

Is the gospel of Christ the only way? WITHOUT QUESTION!