

Read Romans 3:1 – 20.

1. What were some of the advantages of being a Jew? Why might some Jews have accused God of unfaithfulness and injustice? How does Paul respond to these accusations?
2. In the role of prosecutor, Paul has charged that Jews and Gentiles alike are under sin (v9). How does Scripture support his charge (vv10-18)?
3. In v13-18 Paul describes how the various parts of our bodies are involved in sin. How does this figurative language graphically illustrate our condition as fallen people?
4. Imagine a courtroom scene with God as the judge and the world on trial. From what we have learned in Romans 1:18 – 3:20, summarise the charges against us, the supporting evidence and the verdict.
5. Paul does not discuss the grace of God (3:21-5:21) until he has discussed the judgement of God (1:18-3:20). He does not proclaim the good news until we have understood the bad news. Why does he follow this order?

Read Romans 3:21 – 31.

6. How is the righteousness from God (3:22-24) different from the righteousness by law (2:5-13)?

7. What does it mean to have faith in Jesus Christ (v22)?

8. In v24-25 Paul uses three important words to describe what Christ has done for us. The word *justified* (v24) is borrowed from the law court. The judge declares that the person on trial has no legal charges against him. Why is our justification remarkable, given the background of Romans 1:18 – 3:20?

9. The word *redemption* (v24) is borrowed from the slave market. It means to buy someone out of slavery. From what type of slavery, as Christ delivered us?

10. The phrase *sacrifice of atonement* (v25) is borrowed from the Old Testament. Animal sacrifices turned away God's wrath from the sinner. Why does Christ's death turn away God's wrath from us? How should we respond to this fact?

11. Some people find it difficult to understand how God can be perfectly just and gracious at the same time. How do the justice and grace of God meet at the cross (v25-26)?

12. How does boasting about ourselves betray a fundamental misunderstanding of the gospel (v27-31)?

13. In what ways might you feel and act differently if you more fully grasped what Jesus has done for you?