**Building A Strong Faith: A Study of the Book of Romans**

**God’s Faithfulness vs. Man’s Unfaithfulness**

**Romans 3:1-20 March 17, 2024**

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As we begin 2024, I can’t think of a more important asset than a “strong faith” relationship with God through Jesus Christ. Our world is filled with both great opportunities and great challenges. The apostle Paul writes, “The righteous shall live by faith.” The book of Romans will map out a path for us how we can be rightly connected to God, ourselves, and others. “Romans is a feast for one’s soul.” There is an amazing work that God desires to do in us through His Son Jesus and empowered by His Holy Spirit. My prayer is that we will grow in our understanding of the gospel of God. The result will be a strong faith that is able to draw strength from God no matter what comes our way. Today, we will take comfort in the faithfulness of God to fulfill His promises to bring the message of the Gospel despite the unfaithfulness of His people. It is helpful to know that in our chaotic world, that God is faithful, true, righteous and just in all that he does. **Great is God’s faithfulness!**

**The Passage: Romans 3:1-8** Then what advantage has the Jew? Or what is the value of circumcision? 2Much in every way. To begin with, the Jews were entrusted with the oracles of God. 3What if some were unfaithful? Does their faithlessness nullify the faithfulness of God? 4By no means! Let God be true though every one were a liar, as it is written, “That you may be justified in your words, and prevail when you are judged.” 5But if our unrighteousness serves to show the righteousness of God, what shall we say? That God is unrighteous to inflict wrath on us? (I speak in a human way.) 6By no means! For then how could God judge the world? 7But if through my lie God's truth abounds to his glory, why am I still being condemned as a sinner? 8 And why not do evil that good may come? —as some people slanderously charge us with saying. Their condemnation is just. **Why Study Romans? Rom.15:4-6**

**Chapter divides: 3:1-8** God’s faithfulness vs Man’s unfaithfulness **3:9-20** Our great & universal need for a Savior from the Old Testament  **3:21-31** How God makes us right with Him through Jesus Christ**.**

**Externals alone do not save us. There must be an internal heart change.**

**Big Idea**: The unbelief of some does not diminish the faithfulness of God. Great is God’s faithfulness!

1. God’s Word faithfully \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ wherever it is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Romans 3:1 Then what advantage has the Jew? Or what is the value of circumcision? 2Much in every way. To begin with, the Jews were entrusted with the oracles of God.

**Spiritual Growth Questions for March 17**

**Opener**: Share about a difficult question that you have or have been asked. Describe briefly the first time you remember the Word of God impacting you.

1. **Read Romans 3:1-2, Deut.4:5-8, Psalm 19:7-11.** In what ways is it an advantage to know God’s revelation of Himself, His promises, His deeds, and His guidance for living? How is having the Bible such a great advantage for us? How has hearing the Word impacted your life?
2. **Read Psalm 147:19-20, Isaiah 43:10-13, Luke 12:47-48, John 14:21**. What responsibilities go along with being entrusted with God’s words? What implications does this have for Christians (and you personally), who have even more of God’s words than the Jews had? How can we better fulfill the responsibilities we have because we know God’s Word?
3. **Read Romans 3:3-4, 2 Timothy 2:13, Lamentations 3:21-24.** “What if some were unfaithful will their faithlessness nullify the faithfulness of God?” (vs.3)What do these verses teach about God’s faithfulness and man’s unfaithfulness?How is God’s faithfulness an amazing blessing but also why he must judge man’s unfaithfulness? (**See Psalm 51:4** David’s thoughts) **Read Nehemiah 9:32-33-** How does the Levites admission help us understand these verses?
4. **Romans 3:3** emphasizes the faithfulness of God, **3:4** the truthfulness of God, **3:5** the righteousness of God, **3:18** there is no fear of God at all. Why are these attributes of God important in recognizing he is right to judge both the sin and sinners of this world & that he is judgment is just?
5. **Read Romans 3:7-8, 5:20, 6:1-2**. What is wrong with the statement “the more we sin the better it is or why not do evil so good may come”? Where do you see this line of thinking in our culture? Why would God be just in judging someone who is living in this manner?
6. Why is important when we are talking about things that are difficult to understand that we should start with what we do understand? Consider the absolutes we are certain of in this passage: **God is faithful** vs.3, **God is truthful** vs.4, **God is righteous** v.5 and **God’s judgment is just** in vs 8. Why is it vital to acknowledge these absolutes in our lives when things are unclear and difficult to understand? How could these attributes be used for guidance or in a response to an intense challenge? Which one of these attributes speaks to you in your life right now? Why? Spend time praying for one another!

**Reflection:** “Is this view that I am considering: humbling to me and glorifying to God? If it is, it is probably right. How could you apply this principle to your life this week?

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**God’s faithfulness and truth will carry me through the deepest trial! Great is God’s faithfulness!**

III. Because God is faithful, he must \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ man’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Romans 3:5But if our unrighteousness serves to show the righteousness of God, what shall we say? That God is unrighteous to inflict wrath on us? (I speak in a human way.) 6By no means! For then how could God judge the world? Nehemiah 9:33 “Yet you have been righteous in all that has come upon us, for you have dealt faithfully and we have acted wickedly”) (see ques.4)

The Jews’ failure to obey God’s word has brought upon them judgment, and so highlighted God’s faithfulness to his word of threatened judgment for sin. But whatever the positive result of sin might be, God is never unjust to punish it. He will *judge the world* and do so in strict justice (see Gn. 18:25; Jb. 8:3; 32:10–12). Doug Moo

Romans 3:7But if through my lie God's truth abounds to his glory, why am I still being condemned as a sinner? 8 And why not do evil that good may come? —as some people slanderously charge us with saying. Their condemnation is just. (See question 5)

In Paul’s example, someone was saying that God shouldn’t punish them for their sins because their sins make God look good. In other words, since our sins showcase the forgiveness of God, then they shouldn’t count against us anyway because they are producing a greater good. “The more I sin, the more I’m forgiven.” We will see this argument again in Romans. Darrell Oppelman

God’s absolutes to hold onto: He is righteous v.5 He is just in his judgment v.6

**Thankfully, God has provided a judgment bearer for man’s unfaithfulness**.

I Peter 2:24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. vs.25

Nehemiah 9:17b But you are a God ready to forgive, gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and did not forsake them.

Romans 12:2Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God,

**Prayer: Dear Lord Jesus, I want to receive Your Words deep into my soul. I know you are faithful, righteous and totally fair. I know that I am a sinner. I am in desperate need of your forgiveness and righteousness. Thank you for bearing the penalty of my sins on the cross. I repent from my sins. I confess you as my Lord. Transform my mind and show me your will and path for my life. Amen! Great is God’s faithfulness!**

Entrusted-

“The Jewish nation had great benefits. 1. They were entrusted with God’s laws (the whole revelation of God, Ex.19-20). 2. They were the race through whom the Messiah came to earth (Isaiah 11:1-10, Mt,11:1-17), 3. They were the beneficiaries of the covenants with God himself (Gen.17:1-16, Ex.19:3-6)

But these privileges did not make them better than anyone else. In fact, because of them the Jews were even **more responsible** to live up to God’s requirements.” (Life Application Bible) (See question 2)

2 Timothy 3:16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,

“The greatest privilege that can ever come to a man is to be spoken to directly by God, it is equally true to say that here is no greater loss that man can suffer than that God should cease to speak to him.” (See Amos 8:11 famine in the land but of hearing the words of the Lord.) Lloyd Jones

2 Timothy 1:12 which is why I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced that he is able to guard until that day what has been *entrusted* to me. Isaiah 55:10-11

**Reflection:** Do we realize the great privilege that we have is to have an open Bible? Do we realize the advantage of having these living oracles of God? Do we realize that the Bible we have is the living oracles of God?

**God’s word is a great advantage and brings new life to my soul! Great is God’s faithfulness!**

II. Man’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ does not make God’s faithfulness \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Romans 3What if some were unfaithful? Does their faithlessness nullify the faithfulness of God? 4By no means! Let God be true though every one were a liar, as it is written, “That you may be justified in your words, and prevail when you are judged.” (Ps.51:4, Let God be found true by his creatures)

Isaiah 49:6 “It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to bring back the preserved of Israel;
I will make you as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.” Isaiah 49:7 (God will accomplish this mission thru Jesus)

Philippians 1:6And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. 2 Tim. 2:12 if we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself.

God’s absolutes to hold onto: He is faithful vs.3, He is truthful vs.4! (ques.6)