

Living Connections Bible Study



Guilty as Charged

Text: Romans 3:1-23

Prayer:

Icebreaker: List some advantages a child raised in America in a Christian home, and in an evangelical Bible Church would have over a child raised in a pagan society where the gospel has not been shared.

The pious Jew took great pride in knowing the true God, in knowing the Ten Commandments and God's instructions contained in the Old Testament. They thought that being God's chosen people, and circumcision (the sign of God's covenant with Abraham that they were to be a separated and holy people from all nations on earth) exempted them from judgment. So in Romans 2:25-29 Paul said to the self-righteous Jew, *If you are not living godly lives, then your circumcision has become un-circumcision. It is meaningless!* Paul argued that in their sin and disobedience they were no more righteous than the pagan Gentiles in God's eyes.

Their objection to Paul was this: *If what you say is true then there is no advantage to being a Jew.*

1. What main advantage did the Jewish people have over the Gentiles/pagans? (Look up the meaning of oracle/s) Romans 3:1-2; Deuteronomy 4:7-8; Acts 7:38; Hebrews 5:12; 1 Peter 4:11

2. What was God's intention when He chose Abraham to be the father of the Jewish people? Genesis 18:19

3. Did the unbelief of the majority in Israel make the promises of God to Abraham and to their other forefathers null and void? Romans 3:3-4a; 11:1-5

4. What does Paul mean by the statement, *Let God be true but every man a liar*? Romans 3:4; Psalm 51:3-4; 1 John 1:8-9

5. What does Paul say to those who would say *God is so good, righteous and loving that He will excuse and never judge my sin - It would be unjust to inflict wrath or send anyone to hell*? Romans 3:5-6

If God cannot judge sinners then how will justice ever be satisfied? Even sinners sense the need for justice. This is called the *law of righteous retribution*. Some call it *karma*, believing that everyone eventually will be punished or rewarded for the evil or good they have done. *Whatever seeds a person sows that he will also reap.*

6. How does Paul answer those who argue that God's truth, righteousness and glory are magnified by contrast to man's sinfulness, so *Why should I be judged as a sinner?* Romans 3:7-8

7. Why would some of the Jews falsely accuse Paul and his fellow Apostles of this foolish philosophy? Romans 3:8

8. What conclusion does Paul bring us to with regard to man's (Jews and Gentiles) standing before God without Christ? Romans 3:9

9. What is God's indictment on the human race apart from Christ and the work of the Holy Spirit to bring them to the Savior? Romans 3:10-18; Psalm 14:1-3; Psalm 53:1-4; Isaiah 59:7-8

10. What is the purpose of the Law or Ten Commandments? Romans 3:19-20

11. What wonderful gift was promised to sinners, and how do we receive it? Romans 3:21-23; Romans 10:9-10, 13

Think about it this week:

Notice the glorious conjunction **BUT** in the following verses and praise God for the difference God has made in our standing through Christ.

Romans 3:10, 21 *There is none righteous, no not one... BUT now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed ... even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe.*

Romans 6:23 *The wages of sin is death, BUT the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Ephesians 2:1-5 *And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. BUT GOD, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved).*

What difference has knowing Christ made in my life?