



# ROMANS

## Lesson 4: All Mankind is Guilty of Sin

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**P**aul has said there is no difference between Jew and Gentile, between a Mosaic Law keeper and other men. All men stand before God guilty of sin and condemned.

Now at this point, Paul imagines the law keeper (Jew) seeing exactly what he is saying. The law keeper also sees the tremendous weight of Paul's argument; therefore, he strains to counter Paul with three arguments, arguments often made by Christian believers and church members who profess Christ and attend church only enough to soothe their consciences.

The three arguments Paul anticipates from his fellow Jews are:

1. What value is there in being a Jew, a law keeper, in being circumcised or baptized if all are guilty before God (3:1-2)?
2. Does unbelief void God's promises—does it make God a liar (3:3-4)?
3. Is God unjust if he punishes the unrighteous (3:5-8)?

### CENTRAL QUESTION

If all people are condemned before God due to sin, what good is it to be a devout Jew or a religious person?

### ROMANS CHAPTERS 3 AND 4

Read Romans Chapters 3 and 4

## KEY POINTS

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### A. God always keeps his promises (3:1-8)

- Israel was entrusted with the very words of God (Mosaic Law)
- But some were unfaithful
- Nevertheless, God remained faithful to Israel

### B. All people are sinners (3:9-20)

- All people, whether Jews or Gentiles, are under the power of sin
- The more we know God's laws the clearer it becomes that we aren't obeying it

### C. But Jesus paid the price for our sins (3:21-31)

- But now God has shown us a different way of being right in his sight
- We are made right in God's sight when we trust in Jesus Christ to take away our sins
- In doing so, God declares us not guilty/righteous (we are justified)
- This verdict (declared righteous) includes pardon from the guilt and penalty of sin and the imputation of Christ's righteousness to the believer's account
- God imputed a believer's sin to Christ's account in his sacrificial death and he imputes Christ's perfect obedience to God's Law to Christians
- The sinner receives this gift of God's grace by faith alone

### D. Abraham was saved by faith, not works (4:1-25)

- Was Abraham saved by works (circumcision)?
- No, he was saved well before being circumcised
- Abraham believed God, and God declared him to be righteous
- God's promise to give the whole earth to Abraham, and his descendants, was not based on obedience to God's law but on the new relationship with God that comes by faith.
- Now this wonderful truth that God declared Abraham to be righteous it wasn't just for Abraham's benefit.
- It was for us too, assuring us that God will also declare us to be righteous if we believe in God who brought Jesus our Lord back from the dead.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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1. What was it about Israel that made the Jews feel especially privileged over all other people?

2. Referring to Abraham, what argument does Paul make to his fellow Jews to show that a Jew is not made righteous by keeping the Mosaic Law?
  
3. Since believers are saved by God's grace, and our sins are taken away, is it okay to live any way we please? Why or why not?
  
4. Abraham's faith grew stronger, and in this he brought glory to God (4:20). What do you think it was that caused his faith to grow stronger? How does this apply to believers today?
  
5. What would you say to a fellow Christian who said he believes he lost his salvation because he has committed too many sins? What verses would you use to reply to him? (Hint: see <https://www.gotquestions.org/eternal-security.html>).
  
6. Optional leader's question(s).



## **SUMMARY**

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One of the most powerful forces in all the world is faith. In this lesson we see the power of faith revealing three things that faith does:

1. Faith excludes \_\_\_\_\_ (3:27)
2. Faith justifies a man \_\_\_\_\_ (3:28)
3. Faith reveals only one God who deals with all \_\_\_\_\_ (3:29-30)