

Romans 3:5-18

Is God just for taking vengeance on sinners? Is it okay to do evil that good may come? All are under sin.

3:5-6 But if our unrighteousness commend the righteousness of God, what shall we say? Is God unrighteous who taketh vengeance? (I speak as a man) God forbid: for then how shall God judge the world?

Even when we sin, and have done evil, it commends (glorifies; exalts; praises) the righteousness of God (Romans 5:20). The question Paul asks then is this: If when we sin, it glorifies the righteousness of God, is God just in taking vengeance on man when the man has done something that actually exalts God's righteousness more? The answer is an obvious God forbid!

Even though when we have sinned and sinned, and this makes God that much more merciful and gracious, he is still just and punishing sinners.

Is God unrighteous in taking vengeance? God forbid. He is not unrighteous is taking vengeance.

God will take vengeance (Deuteronomy 32:35-43, Isaiah 34:1-8, Isaiah 63:1-4, Nahum 1:2-3, 2 Thessalonians 1:7-10)

3:7-8 For if the truth of God hath more abounded through my lie unto his glory; why yet am I also judged as a sinner? 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.

Paul continues this line of reasoning from verses 5 and 6. If we do evil, God is just in executing his wrath upon us, even if our evil thoughts and ways end up glorifying Jesus Christ for his mercy, grace, longsuffering, and compassion.

God has fixed this thing that as Christians we can only do things for the truth! (2 Corinthians 13:5-8)

But I want to focus on the part in verse 8, "Let us do evil that good may come."

Even though "where sin did abound, grace did much more abound," we should not continue in sin (Romans 6:1-2). That is crystal clear from scripture. What do you think is more pleasing to God: You doing good or you doing evil?

God has paid for our sins already; he doesn't want us to continue in sin. He wants us to move on from sin unto righteousness. He didn't die for our sins, so we could abide in our sins, he died so we could be delivered from the law of sin and death (Romans 8:1-2, John 8:34-36) and serve God (Romans 6:4, 22).

There is another application of this phrase, "Let us do evil that good may come" we can make. It is not right to lie, trick, and deceive people when trying to win them to Jesus Christ. I don't think it's right to live like the world, walk like the world, and talk like the world to win the world. Last

time I checked, there is a difference between darkness and light and the darkness doesn't comprehend the light (John 1:4-5).

When you were saved you became a child of the Light (Acts 26:15-18, Colossians 1:12-13, 2 Corinthians 4:3-6). So people should be attracted to you because of the Light that dwells in you. People that are blind, and know they are blind, desire to see. When they see a glimpse of light that lightens up their darkness, they are attracted to it.

This doesn't mean isolate yourself from sinners, they are the ones that need to see your light (Matthew 5:14-16). It means don't be a partaker of their sins (1 Timothy 5:22). Well what about becoming like a Jew to reach the Jew and becoming like a Gentile to reach the Gentile – that's what Paul did (1 Corinthians 9:19-23). Paul would follow their ways and customs as long as he could do it with good conscience (Romans 14:14-23). If you have a clear conscience, praise the Lord, if not, get it right, and start doing right. We do have liberty in Christ (Galatians 2:4, 5:1, 5:13) and we are not under the law (Romans 6:14).

Another thing to remember is don't go out of your way to offend anybody, especially when you are trying to witness to them (Romans 12:18). At some point offences will come, between an unbeliever and a believer, but don't start trouble when there doesn't have to be trouble. That is what Paul is saying in 1 Corinthians 9:19-23.

3:9-18 What then? are we better *than they*? No, in no wise: for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin; As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one. Their throat *is* an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps *is* under their lips: Whose mouth *is* full of cursing and bitterness: Their feet *are* swift to shed blood: Destruction and misery *are* in their ways: And the way of peace have they not known: There is no fear of God before their eyes.

Are we better than they? Good question, huh? We are no better than the unbelieving Jew – for we are all under sin, Jew or Gentile, Saved or Lost. Just because you have been born again and become a Son of God, don't exalt yourself above others. In fact, now that you have become a Son, you should take upon you the form of a servant (1 Corinthians 9:19, Mark 9:33-35, Philippians 2:5-8).

Now that you are saved, and you are *CURRENTLY* doing right, living for the Lord, and just quit some things you should of quit a long time ago (amen), don't get the holier than thou attitude (Isaiah 65:1-5) towards other Christians or lost people that don't live like you do or believe like you do. You are responsible for your relationship with the Lord and the light that God has showed you; don't worry about other people, that's between them and God.

You are not better than the man next to you. Don't think too highly of yourself (Romans 12:3, 1 Corinthians 4:6)

What Christ wants are attitude to be like (Luke 17:7-9).

We are not better than any, for both the Jew and Gentile are under sin.

Then Paul quotes from the Old Testament in verses 10-18 (Psalm 14:1-3, 5:9, 140:3, 10:7, Isaiah 59:7-8, Psalm 36:1).

God told us not think of ourselves or others above that which is written: What is written of men? There is none righteous, none good, none that understands, none that seeks after God, all have gone astray, all have become unprofitable – all have sinned.

Even though the wages of sin is death, the good news is that the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. This is the gospel. This is the good news we should be spreading. Even though they have sinned against God, God is willing to be reconciled unto them through his Son Jesus Christ and forgive them, and cleanse them, and give them his Holy Spirit.

Next Week: Don't miss next week. We are going to look at one of the most important passages in the entire Bible.