



R o m a n s

**The Good News,
Chapter 3**

Terms

Justification - God is the judge of all the world. Justification is the declaration that someone is in the right, specifically in the promised family. It is a declaration now of what will be in the final judgment.

Righteous – When used of God refers to his covenant faithfulness. God fulfills his covenant promises, therefore, he is faithful and righteous.

Romans 3:1-8 KNT

What advantage, then does the Jew possess? What, indeed, is the point of circumcision? A great deal, in every way. To begin with, the Jews were entrusted with God's oracles. What follows from that? If some of the were unfaithful to their commission, does their unfaithfulness nullify God's faithfulness? Certainly not! Let God be true, and every human being false! As the Bible says, "so that you may be found in the right in what you say, and may win the victory when you come to court."

Romans 3:1-8 KNT, cont.

But if our being in the wrong proves that God is in the right, what are we going to say? That God is unjust to inflict anger on people? (I'm reducing things to a human scale!) Certainly not! How then could God judge the world? But if God's truthfulness grows all the greater and brings him glory in and through my falsehood, why am I still being condemned as a sinner? And why not "do evil so that good may come"—as some people blasphemously say about us, and as some allege that we say? People like that, at least, deserve the judgment they get!

Romans 3:1-8

- There were advantages to being Jewish—and there was no advantage.
- God will be faithful to his promises no matter what it looks like.
- We are all in the same boat.
- There is no special status for any ethnicity or nation so you had better not put your trust in that—it quickly becomes idolatry.

Romans 3:9 KNT

What then? Are we in fact better off? No, certainly not. I have already laid down this charge, you see: Jews as well as Greeks are all under the power of sin.

Romans 3:9-20

- All humans are guilty of idolatry.
- The Law defines the line between glory and idolatry like a wall.
- It cannot transform an idolater.
- It cannot cure idolatry.

Romans 3:21-24 KNT

But now, quite apart from the law (though the law and the prophets bore witness to it), God's covenant justice has been displayed. God's covenant justice comes into operation through the faithfulness of Jesus the Messiah, for the benefit of all who have faith. For there is no distinction: all sinned, and fell short of God's glory—and by God's grace they are freely declared to be in the right, to be members of the covenant, through the redemption which is found in the Messiah, Jesus.

Romans 3:21-24

- The Law was a quarantine not an antidote.
- Israel was the representative of the world.
- The Messiah was the representative of Israel.
- What is true of the king is true of his people.
- He defeated idolatry and those in him are freed from the enslaving masters of sin and darkness.

Romans 3:25-26 KNT

God put Jesus forth as the place of mercy, through faithfulness, by means of his blood. He did this to demonstrate his covenant justice, because of the passing over (in divine forbearance) of sins committed beforehand. This was to demonstrate his covenant justice in the present time: that is, that he himself is in the right, and that he declares to be in the right everyone who trusts in the faithfulness of Jesus.

Romans 3:25-26

- The day of atonement (Leviticus 16) taught Israel that only death could restore them as a result of their idolatry.
- That was a temporary solution.
- God has shown now, in Christ, who will be declared in the right on the final day.

Romans 3:27-31 KNT

So what happens to boasting? It is ruled out! Through what sort of law? The law of works? No: through the law of faith! We calculate, you see, that a person is declared to be in the right on the basis of faith, apart from works of the law. Or does God only belong to Jews? Doesn't he belong to the nations as well? Yes, of course to the nations as well, since God is one. He will make the declaration "in the right" over the circumcised on the basis of faith, and over the uncircumcised through faith. Do we then abolish the law through faith? Certainly not! Rather, we establish the law.

Romans 3:27-31

- This is not a discussion between believing vs. earning status before God.
- The Law cannot establish the emancipation from idolatry to which it points.
- Only trusting God's faithfulness through Christ and entering into him can accomplish that.
- The nations must enter Christ through that faith in his representative life in order to be declared in the right.