

- c. Romans 2:28-29 – An external ritual like circumcision, baptism or communion might make you a Jew, a Protestant or a Catholic (etc.) in name, but it will not transform you on the \_\_\_\_\_ . 1 Samuel 16:7
- 1) Romans 2:28 – In fact, Paul said, *“For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh.”* An external ritual, like circumcision, does not make an internal or spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ .
  - 2) Romans 2:29a – *But he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that which is of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter... Only the circumcision of the heart, [done] by the Spirit at salvation has transforming \_\_\_\_\_ .* Deuteronomy 30:6, Jeremiah 4:4, Philippians 3:3, Titus 3:5
  - 3) Romans 2:29b – *...and his praise is not from men, but from God.* Only the born-again person who has received spiritual surgery in his heart by means of the Holy Spirit brings \_\_\_\_\_ to God. Ephesians 1:13-14

#### D. Romans 3:1-8 – Paul anticipated questions concerning religious sinners

1. Romans 3:1-2 – Paul anticipated the first question, which concerned Israel. Since Paul used his own people as a negative example of religious sinners, someone might ask, “What good is there then in being a \_\_\_\_\_ ?”
  - a. Romans 3:1 – *Then what advantage has the Jew? Or what is the benefit of circumcision? Was there any benefit in being an Israelite? Paul’s answer was \_\_\_\_\_ .*
  - b. Romans 3:2 – *Great in every respect. First of all, that they were entrusted with the oracles of God.* The chief advantage the Jew had, as opposed to the Gentile, was the possession of Old Testament Scriptures. The Old Testament graciously prepared Israel for trusting in Jesus \_\_\_\_\_. John 5:39, 46; Galatians 3:24
2. Romans 3:3-4 – A second question concerning religious sinners that Paul anticipated was this: “If religious sinners are hypocrites, does that make God a \_\_\_\_\_ ?” When religious people are hypocrites, does that invalidate God?
  - a. Romans 3:3 – *What then? If some did not believe, their unbelief will not nullify the faithfulness of God, will it? If a religious person possesses biblical truth but does not \_\_\_\_\_ it or handle it correctly, does that somehow eliminate God’s faithfulness? Of course, the answer is no.*
  - b. Romans 3:4a – *“May it never be!”* When religious sinners show they do not believe the God they preach about, it causes \_\_\_\_\_ concerning God’s reliability, but Paul emphasized that God is never the one to blame.
  - c. Romans 3:4b – *Rather, let God be found true, though every man be found a liar.* Despite the hypocrisy of religious sinners, God always tells the \_\_\_\_\_. God is always right and good even when those who claim to follow Him don’t walk according to His truth. Psalm 116:11, Romans 2:21-24

- d. Romans 3:4c – ...it is written, “that You may be justified in your words, and prevail when You are judged.” This quote from the Old Testament confirms that anytime God’s integrity is questioned, God will always be proven \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Romans 3:5-8 – A third question might be, “Is God going too far when He condemns religious sinners?”
- a. Romans 3:5 – *But if our unrighteousness demonstrates the righteousness of God, what shall we say? The God who inflicts wrath is not unrighteous, is He? (I am speaking in human terms.)* A religious person might conclude, “I’m helping God when I sin, because my failures magnify God’s \_\_\_\_\_.”
- 1) When conviction is heavy, religious people \_\_\_\_\_ their failures with cheap and ridiculous excuses. Genesis 3:12
  - 2) How should we respond if someone \_\_\_\_\_ that their sinful conduct is good, since it elevates God’s righteousness?
- b. Romans 3:6a – Once again Paul’s answer was, “*May it never be!*” Our sinful acts do not promote God’s name or His objectives. Our sin never \_\_\_\_\_ God nor does God ever condone sin.
- c. Romans 3:6b – *For otherwise, how will God judge the world?* If God sometimes excused sin because it benefited Him in some way, He would not be an objective and fair \_\_\_\_\_.
- d. Romans 3:7 – Religious sinners always look for ways to \_\_\_\_\_ themselves. “*But if through my lie the truth of God abounded to His glory, why am I also still being judged as a sinner?*”
- 1) This \_\_\_\_\_ question is, “How can God judge me for being a sinner if my sin somehow benefits Him?” Paul did not take the time to answer this question.
  - 2) By refusing to answer, Paul exposed the folly of thinking that a lie somehow \_\_\_\_\_ God. Proverbs 26:4-5
- e. Romans 3:8a – If Paul taught that God excused sin for any reason, he would have been \_\_\_\_\_ of teaching lawlessness. Paul did not excuse any kind of lawlessness, although some accused him of doing so. *And why not say (as we are slanderously reported and as some claim that we say), “Let us do evil that good may come?”*
- f. Romans 3:8b – Paul said those who accused him of promoting sin \_\_\_\_\_ the judgment they were sure to get. ...*their condemnation is just...*
- 1) Why would Paul have been accused of promoting lawlessness? When a believer preaches salvation by grace alone, without any kind of works, religious legalists may readily \_\_\_\_\_ him of excusing, and even promoting, sin.
  - 2) If religious legalists do not accuse you in this way, you probably need to check to see if you are really teaching \_\_\_\_\_.

**E. Romans 3:9-20 – In conclusion: All the \_\_\_\_\_ is guilty of sin.**

1. Romans 3:9 – Paul concluded that all \_\_\_\_\_ - moral, immoral and religious - are guilty sinners. *What then? Are we [ethnic Jews] better than they [pagan Gentiles]? Not at all; for we have already charged that both Jews and Greeks are all under sin.* Galatians 3:22
  - a. With what authority did Paul make such a powerful verdict?
  - b. We will see that Paul relied exclusively on the \_\_\_\_\_ of God to make his case.
2. Romans 3:10-18 – Paul accused all humanity, whether moral, immoral or religious, of \_\_\_\_\_. Paul's accusations focused on three areas: humanity's nature, humanity's speech and humanity's conduct.
  - a. Romans 3:10-12 – Paul's first set of accusations centered on humanity's corrupt \_\_\_\_\_. According to God's Word, mankind's fleshly nature is totally depraved. Ephesians 2:1-3
    - 1) Romans 3:10 – No one in all creation has God's \_\_\_\_\_. *...as it is written, "There is none righteous, not even one..."* Psalm 14:1
    - 2) Romans 3:11a – No one truly comprehends or understands God's \_\_\_\_\_. *...there is none who understands...* Psalm 53:2a
    - 3) Romans 3:11b – No one \_\_\_\_\_ for God or desires to get to know Him. *...there is none who seeks for God...* Psalm 53:2b, John 6:44
    - 4) Romans 3:12a – Every human has rejected God and become \_\_\_\_\_. *...all have turned aside, together they have become useless...* Psalm 53:3a
    - 5) Romans 3:12b – There has never been even one person who has done what is \_\_\_\_\_. *...there is none who does good, there is not even one...* Psalm 53:3b
  - b. Romans 3:13-14 – Paul's second set of accusations focused on the hurtfulness of humanity's \_\_\_\_\_. The Bible shows that humanity's communication is totally corrupt and destructive.
    - 1) Romans 3:13a – The pit from which mankind's speech springs forth is as foul as an exposed \_\_\_\_\_. *...their throat is an open grave...* Psalm 5:9a
    - 2) Romans 3:13b – Mankind's tongue continually tells \_\_\_\_\_. *...with their tongues, they keep deceiving...* Psalm 5:9b
    - 3) Romans 3:13c – Mankind's \_\_\_\_\_, the instrument that voices their thoughts, conceal the venom of a deadly snake. *...the poison of asps is under their lips...* Psalm 140:3
    - 4) Romans 3:14 – Mankind's mouth \_\_\_\_\_ forth profanities. *...whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness...* Psalm 10:7
  - c. Romans 3:15-18 – Paul's third set of accusations centered on humanity's \_\_\_\_\_. Using Scripture, Paul showed just how wickedly people act before God.
    - 1) Romans 3:15 – Humanity is \_\_\_\_\_ to become violent. *...their feet are swift to shed blood...* Proverbs 6:18, Isaiah 59:7a

- 2) Romans 3:16 – Humanity leaves a \_\_\_\_\_ of doom and despair wherever it goes. *...destruction and misery are in their paths...* Isaiah 59:7b
  - 3) Romans 3:17– Humanity does not know how to \_\_\_\_\_ without war. *...and the path of peace they have not known...* Genesis 6:5-7, 11-12, 13; Isaiah 59:8
  - 4) Romans 3:18 – Humanity does not \_\_\_\_\_ God. *...there is no fear of God before their eyes...* Psalm 36:1
3. Romans 3:19-20 – Paul summarized his appraisal of mankind. He showed that according to God’s Law, Jews and Gentiles alike are all \_\_\_\_\_ *before God*.
- a. Romans 3:19a – *Now we know that whatever the Law says, it speaks to those who are under the Law...* First of all, the Law applied to Israel. Being under the \_\_\_\_\_, they experienced the consequences of their disobedience firsthand. Deuteronomy 28:15-68
  - b. Romans 3:19b – Even though the Law was given specifically to Israel, it was extended to all people everywhere. Paul said the Law was given *so that* \_\_\_\_\_ *mouth may be closed*. God gave the Law so that all excuses would be stopped and the world’s arrogance would be silenced. Psalm 130:3
  - c. Romans 3:19c – The Law \_\_\_\_\_ *all the world accountable to God*. God gave the Law so that everyone on earth would become answerable for their wrongdoings.
  - d. Romans 3:20a – *...because by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight...* The \_\_\_\_\_ of the Ten Commandments was never to make people righteous, since no one is able to keep the Law perfectly. Acts 13:39, Galatians 2:16, James 2:10
  - e. Romans 3:20b – *...for through the Law comes the knowledge of sin*. The purpose of the Law is to \_\_\_\_\_ mankind’s sinfulness. 1 Timothy 1:8-11

## F. Let’s take a trip through Law school.

1. First of all, we need to answer the question, “Is the Law (the Ten Commandments) bad?”
  - a. The Law is good if it is used correctly. The Law should be specifically applied to those who are not yet saved. 1 Timothy 1:8-9a says, “*But we know that the Law is \_\_\_\_\_, if one uses it lawfully, realizing the fact that law is not made for a righteous person, but for those who are lawless and rebellious.*”
  - b. Romans 7:7 says, “*What shall we say then? Is the Law sin? May it never be!*” This makes it clear that the Law is not \_\_\_\_\_ or flawed.
  - c. Romans 7:12 says, “*So then, the Law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good.*” The Bible confirms that the Law is \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The Law (the Ten Commandments) was \_\_\_\_\_ given to do the following:
  - a. The Law was not given to \_\_\_\_\_ people from their sins. Romans 8:3 says, “*For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh.*” James 2:10