

## Romans 3 Jumping To Hawaii

10/25/09 - The Exchange

- I. Review
  - A. 1:16-17. God's power to save to all who believe, Jew and Gentile.
  - B. We exchange God's truth for our own truth. I'm boss.
  - C. No room for self righteousness by those who have God's truth. Need to be doers, not havers.
  - D. Romans 3, Paul puts the gospel in context, first applying it to the self righteous, not to sinners per se. We are supposed to relay God's judgment/views on things, but not His wrath.
  - E. If you don't understand the problem, you can't understand the solution.
    - i. The world, and even many in the church don't understand the problem, and therefore try to change the solution.
    - ii. Romans 2, the Jews thought they were entitled. Wrong prob.
- II. 3:1-8 (Jewish voice with questions?)
  - A. 3:1-2 oracles - sayings, teachings. Like fortune cookies. The advantage to being a Jew? People chose by God through whom He would reveal Himself to the world. God is not done with them.
  - B. 3:3-4 Do Jews who do not believe mean God has failed in some way? No. God is faithful and true no matter what we do. Ps. 51.
  - C. 3:5-8 Illogical extremes. How can God judge the world if our wrongness demonstrates God's rightness? If you thought that way then God wouldn't have any right to judge. It's wrong thinking.
- III. 3:9-20
  - A. 3:9 Response, "What?!" The comes a reminder from the very oracles that were committed to them.
  - B. 3:10-12 What we are. Filthy rags.
  - C. 3:13-14 What we say
  - D. 3:15-17 What we do
  - E. 3:18 What it boils down to and feeds what came before.
  - F. 3:19-20
    - i. If you don't understand the problem then the solution doesn't make sense.
    - ii. The issue at hand is the gap between our unrighteousness and God's righteousness. Our position in judgment and God's righteousness.
    - iii. If we think our good works count toward something, we are trying to jump to Hawaii.
      - a) Game show - playing against Hitler, Caligula, Ellen, cast of Home Makeover.
      - b) From LA to Hawaii, 2,500 miles. Not Neo from Matrix.
      - c) Doesn't matter who jumps the farthest, it can't be done. Our nature prohibits it. It's not what we do, it's what we are. Sinners.
    - iv. The law wasn't an afterthought in a series of failed attempts to try and get people to love/live for God.
    - v. The law was not designed to bridge the gap, it was designed to point out the gap. - Choose That Link! game show.

IV. 3:21-26

A. 3:21-22 Again reaction, "What?!"

1. 3:21

- a) revealed - manifested, not apocalypse. How? In Jesus.
- b) witnessed - word for martyr, testified
- c) This is nothing new. Not Paul's gospel. OT is the NT concealed, NT is the OT revealed.

2. 3:22

- a) faith / believe - different versions of the same word.
- b) difference - the distinction between the sounds of musical instruments.

3. Leading up to the point, Paul arguing that we are all, Jews and gentiles, sinners equally. Now telling is all have equal access to God's righteousness apart from the Law, which could not grant righteousness, through faith.

4. Harmony of what God has done (manifested) and our exercising of faith.

B. 3:23 The only one God could ever glory in is Jesus Christ.

C. 3:24

1. justified - as if it never happened

2. freely - without cost

3. redemption - payment made to free something. Ransom.

D. 3:25-26 How was this redemption achieved?

1. propitiation - mercy seat. Ark of the Covenant. Law looked forward to. We look back to. (go to blank slide)

2. demonstrate - show how it works

3. forbearance - call back to 2:4.

4. The law pointed ahead to Jesus, God temporarily overlooks our sin until such time that we put our faith in what He has done, or we die apart from Him.

5. It's not about what we do, but what about God has done.

a) What does God want you/me to do? Stop trying to jump to Hawaii. Stop trying to compare how far we jump to others or some other standard.

b) Jesus is the standard, rest your worth in that. Don't do to earn, do to love.

V. 3:27-31 Riff. Paul rounds out what he's been saying in 2 and 3. Going to talk about Abraham the Gentile and his faith pre-law in 4 as an example.

VI. Wrap up.

A. Need to understand the problem in order to understand the solution.

B. The problem is all are sinners and have sinned. None can jump to Hawaii, all have broken one link in the chain.

C. The solution is something God had planned from before the beginning. God's plan the whole time.

1. Not what we do, what He has done.

2. A new nature. The exchange.