

ROMANS – LIVING BY FAITH
GOD’S RIGHTEOUSNESS & MAN’S REBELLION – Chapters 1-3

LESSON 10 – GOD’S PRIVILEGED PEOPLE – Romans 3:1-2

There is probably no other gift that is so overlooked and so taken for granted by Christians than the availability of The Bible. In this beginning section of Romans 3, Paul reminds us of the treasure we possess.

It could be said that Paul reveals the spiritual nakedness of the Jews in Romans 2 and 3. They had imagined themselves clothed with a righteousness that was actually non-existent. They believed their heritage and ritual made them safe from God’s judgment. They actually saw themselves as teachers and leaders for God.

As we’ve discussed, Paul’s purpose in these first three chapters was to make everyone understand that they are guilty in their sin before God. He made a specific point of letting the Jews know that they were no different than the Gentiles when it comes to their guilt and sin. He said in Romans 2:11 that, “God does not play favorites.”

Here at the beginning of Romans 3, Paul gives us the most important advantage of being God’s people...we have His Word.

The Priority of the Word of God

Paul says that the most important way God has blessed His people is by giving them His Word. “The Jews have been entrusted with the very words of God.” Romans 3:2.

The advantage of the Jews then was this...they had been made the caretakers of God’s revelation to mankind. It was a great privilege that had not been given to any other nation.

Psalm 147:19-20 “He has revealed his word to Jacob, his laws and decrees to Israel. He has done this for no other nation; they do not know his laws.”

The Privileges Associated with the Word of God

There is really no better way to understand and appreciate these privileges of having God’s Word than to hear the testimony of The Bible itself.

It Is Through the Word of God that We Are Convicted

2 Timothy 3:16 “All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.”

It Is Through the Word of God that We Are Converted

Psalm 19:7 “The law of the Lord is perfect, refreshing the soul. The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple.”

1 Peter 1:23 “For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.”

James 1:18 “He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.”

John 20:30-31 "Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name."

2 Timothy 3:15 "And how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus."

It Is Through the Word of God that We Are Cleansed

John 17:17 "Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth."

Psalms 119:9 "How can a young person stay on the path of purity? By living according to your word."

It Is Through the Word of God that We Are Comforted

Romans 15:4 "For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope."

It Is Through the Word of God that We Are Counseled

Psalms 19:7-8 "The law of the Lord is perfect, refreshing the soul. The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple. The precepts of the Lord are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the Lord are radiant, giving light to the eyes."

It Is Through the Word of God that We Are Corrected

2 Timothy 3:16-17 "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."

Pictures of the Word of God Found in the Bible

The Bible paints a picture of itself in ways easy to understand and appreciate.

The Word of God Is a Mirror

James 1:22-24 "Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like."

The Word of God Is a Sword

Ephesians 6:17 "Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God."

Hebrews 4:12 "For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart."

The Word of God Is a Hammer

Jeremiah 23:29 "Is not my word like fire, declares the Lord, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?"

The Word of God Is a Lamp

Psalms 119:105 "Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path."

2 Peter 1:19 "We also have the prophetic message as something completely reliable, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts."

The Word of God Is Milk

1 Peter 2:2 "Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation."

The Word of God Is Solid Food

Hebrews 5:12-14 "In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil."

The Word of God Is a Fire

Jeremiah 20:9 "But if I say, I will not mention his word or speak anymore in his name, his word is in my heart like a fire, a fire shut up in my bones. I am weary of holding it in; indeed, I cannot."

Luke 24:32 "They asked each other, Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"

Gideon International...distributors of over 2 billion Bibles...produced this statement about the Word of God...

The Bible contains the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners, and the happiness of believers. Its doctrines are holy, its precepts are binding, its histories are true, and its decisions are immutable. Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe, and practice it to be holy. It contains light to direct you, food to support you, and comfort to cheer you.

It is the traveler's map, the pilgrim's staff, the pilot's compass, the soldier's sword, and the Christian's charter. Here Paradise is restored, Heaven opened, and the gates of hell disclosed.

Christ is its grand subject, our good the design, and the glory of God its end. It should fill the memory, rule the heart, and guide the feet. Read it slowly, frequently, and prayerfully. It is a mine of wealth, a paradise of glory, and a river of pleasure. It is given you in life, will be opened at the judgment, and be remembered forever. It involves the highest responsibility, will reward the greatest labor, and will condemn all who trifle with its sacred contents.