

## Romans

### Chapter 3

One of the writing styles Paul used was to answer questions. In several letters he replies to questions the churches have written to ask him. Here he seems to ask the question himself in order to answer it.

Who in Rome might have asked the question?

What question might you ask of Jesus today? If not about circumcision then what?

Paul writes of our unfaithfulness and injustice in contrast to God's faithfulness and justice. But just as Paul noted in verse 8 that what "some people said in slander" about what they heard from Paul what do some people say about God because of what they have heard and seen from some of God's people?

Verses 10-18 is seen as one long quote, but your Bible notes should show it is a quote from many OT books combined as one. I am amazed by the breadth of the knowledge of Paul to quote all of these obscure passages. If you had to, how many scriptures could you quote in a letter today?

How does verse 20 sum up Paul's argument? What does it say to you?

Speaking of known scripture passages, you might know and quote verse 23.

In verses 21-26 Paul points out that it is God's righteousness through Jesus that justifies or saves us.

It is not about what we know but who we know. It is for Paul, all about our faith in Jesus.

Then in verses 27-31 he goes on to point out that we cannot boast of knowing the Bible or obeying the Bible (Law) or good works. What we can boast about or affirm or talk with others about is faith in Jesus.

We are justified by faith not by works. Paul also writes about this in Galatians 2.16 (that might be another good letter for us to look at when we are done with Romans.)

Whereas Jews historically knew God as the God of the Jews, Paul says that is the case no longer. Do you know any who would claim God is the God only of the Christians?

Paul affirms there is only one God and God is God of all. And God can justify all.