

Getting Started

At this point in his letter, Paul has sufficiently demonstrated that everyone is guilty: the willfully ignorant (1:18-32), the self-righteous (2:1-16), and the super-religious (2:17-29). They all deserve the wrath of God. As Paul taught this truth in the synagogues, he undoubtedly encountered a number of objections.

“It is often easier to follow Paul’s arguments, if the reader imagines the apostle face to face with a heckler. We may go further than this and picture Paul the Pharisee and Paul the Christian in debate with each other.” – John Stott

Pastor Lee presented this outline for Romans 3:1-8 ... If I am such a big sinner...

1. Why then would I do any of the stuff I have been doing? (Romans 3:1-2)
 2. What happens to God’s promises given to me? (Romans 3:3-4)
 3. Should I do evil so good can come of it? (Romans 3:5-8)
- Notice the 4 questions woven throughout 3:1-8. How might you state the objections that are surfaced through these questions?

Question/Objection #1:

Question/Objection #2:

Question/Objection #3:

Question/Objection #4:

- What are the most common objections you have heard to the gospel?

Discussion

- In what ways had the Jews “been entrusted with the very words of God”?
- In what ways it is advantageous to know God’s revelation of Himself, His promises, His deeds, and His guidance for living? (Deut 4:5-8; Psalm 19:7-11)
- What responsibilities go along with being entrusted with God’s Word? How are you living up to these responsibilities?

- How would you respond to a person who said, “I’m glad I fell so deeply into wrong/sin/bad behavior. It shows how good God is and how much he will forgive” (3:5-8)?
- The Jews to whom Paul was writing had all sorts of misplaced confidence about their special relationship with God. What or whom have you been tempted to trust besides the grace of Jesus Christ alone?

“Paul was not content only to proclaim and expound the gospel. He also argued its truth and reasonableness, and defended it against misunderstanding and misrepresentation. Whether these Jewish objections were genuine or imaginary, he took them seriously and responded to them. He saw that the character of God was at stake. So he reaffirmed God’s covenant as having abiding value, God’s faithfulness to his promises, God’s justice as judge, and God’s true glory which is promoted only by good, never by evil.” – John Stott

We need to anticipate people’s objections to the gospel, listen carefully to their problems, respond to them with due seriousness, and proclaim the gospel in such a way as to affirm God’s goodness and further his glory.

- Discuss the importance of this statement and what steps we can take to grow in our ability to become more prepared and effective in our personal ministry of evangelism. (I am not ashamed of the gospel ... Romans 1:16)

Prayer