

The Greatest Letter Ever
The Closing Argument
Romans 3:1-20

Introduction: Favorite Attorneys

Question: Who is your favorite TV or movie attorney?

Introduction: 1:1-17

Sin: 1:18-3:20

Salvation: 3:21-5:21

Sanctification: 6:1-8:39

Sovereignty: 9:1-11:36

Service: 12:1-15:13

Conclusion: 15:13-16:27

Paul Answers Possible Objections (3:1-9)

1st Objection: The Uniqueness of the Jews (Romans 3:1-2)

What advantage, then, is there in being a Jew, or what value is there in circumcision? Much in every way! First of all, the Jews have been entrusted with the very words of God. (vv. 1-2)

- **Question:** Is there any advantage to being a Jew? If it's no better than being a pagan, why bother?
- **Answer:** There is a great advantage.

2nd Objection: The Faithfulness of God (Romans 3:3-4)

What if some were unfaithful? Will their unfaithfulness nullify God's faithfulness? Not at all! Let God be true, and every human being a liar. As it is written: "So that you may be proved right when you speak and prevail when you judge." (vv. 3-4)

- **Question:** Would their failure to be faithful justify God breaking His promises to them?
- **Answer:** Not at all!

Truth: God's promises are based on His character and not on our performance.

3rd Objection: The Righteousness of God (Romans 3:5-6)

But if our unrighteousness brings out God's righteousness more clearly, what shall we say? That God is unjust in bringing his wrath on us? (I am using a human argument.) Certainly not! If that were so, how could God judge the world? (vv. 5-6)

- **Question:** Doesn't my sin make God look good?
- **Answer:** This makes no sense!

4th Objection: The Truthfulness of God (Romans 3:7-8)

Someone might argue, “If my falsehood enhances God’s truthfulness and so increases his glory, why am I still condemned as a sinner?” Why not say—as some slanderously claim that we say, “Let us do evil that good may result”? Their condemnation is just. (vv. 7-8)

- **Question:** Doesn’t my sin give God more chances to show His grace?
- **Answer:** Never presume on the grace of God

5th Objection: The Sinfulness of Humanity (Romans 3:9)

What shall we conclude then? Do we have any advantage? Not at all! For we have already made the charge that Jews and Gentiles alike are all under the power of sin. (v. 9)

- **Question:** Do Jews have any advantage?
- **Answer:** Not at all!

Paul Presents Supporting Testimony (3:10-18)

10 As it is written:

‘There is no one righteous, not even one;

11 there is no one who understands,

No one who seeks God (*Ecclesiastes 7:20*).

12 All have turned away,

they have together become worthless;

there is no one who does good,

not even one’ (*Psalms 14:1–3; Psalm 53:1–3*).

13 ‘Their throats are open graves;

their tongues practice deceit’ (*Psalms 5:9*).

‘The poison of vipers is on their lips’ (*Psalms 140:3*).

14 ‘Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness’ (*Psalms 10:7*).

15 ‘Their feet are swift to shed blood;

16 ruin and misery mark their ways,

17 and the way of peace they do not know’ (*Isaiah 59:7f.; cf. Proverbs 1:16*).

18 ‘There is no fear of God before their eyes’ (*Psalms 36:1*).

1st Testimony: Universal Sin is Verified by Our Character (vv. 10-12)

2nd Testimony: Universal Sin is Verified by Our Conduct (vv. 13-17)

- Words (vv. 13-4)
- Actions (vv. 15-17)

3rd Testimony: Universal Sin is the Result of Not Fearing God (v. 18)

Paul Summarizes His Conclusion and Asks For A Verdict