ROMANS: A FIRM FOUNDATION

Q&A with Paul
Romans 3:1-20
QUESTION 1

Q  What advantage, then, is there in being a Jew, or what value is there in circumcision?

A  Much in every way! First of all, they have been entrusted with the very words of God.
QUESTION 2

Q ³ What if some did not have faith? Will their lack of faith nullify God’s faithfulness?

A ⁴ Not at all! Let God be true, and every man a liar. As it is written:

“So that you may be proved right when you speak and prevail when you judge.”
QUESTION 3

Q  5 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.)

A  6 Certainly not! If that were so, how could God judge the world? 7 Someone might argue, “If my falsehood enhances God’s truthfulness and so increases his glory, why am I still condemned as a
sinner? 8 Why not say -- as we are being slanderously reported as saying and as some claim that we say—“Let us do evil that good may result”? Their condemnation is deserved.
Q 9 What shall we conclude then? Are we any better?

A  Not at all! We have already made the charge that Jews and Gentiles alike are all under sin. 10 As it is written:

“There is no one righteous, not even one;
THE DEPTH OF DEPRAVITY

1) Our conscience is depraved:
\[\begin{align*}
11 & \text{there is no one who understands,} \\
& \text{no one who seeks God.} \\
12 & \text{All have turned away,} \\
& \text{they have together become worthless;} \\
& \text{there is no one who does good,} \\
& \text{not even one.”}
\end{align*}\]
2) Our character is depraved:

\[12\] All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one.”
3) Our conversation is depraved:

13 “Their throats are open graves; their tongues practice deceit.”

14 “The poison of vipers is on their lips.”

14 “Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness.”
THE DEPTH OF DEPRAVITY

4) Our conduct is depraved:

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.”
18 “There is no fear of God before their eyes.”
CONCLUSION

19 Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God. 20 Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin.
TO GO:

• Meditate on 2 Timothy 3:16-17. How does scriptures perspective regarding God and his righteousness differ from the secular perceptions of God and righteousness?

• How have Paul’s arguments thus far in Romans altered the way that you view human sinfulness?

• On a scale of 1 – 10 how (1 = little & 10 = great) how guilty are you before God without grace?

• Homework: Romans 3:21-31