

PERSONAL APPLICATION

ROMANS 3:9–31

Blessed Lord, Your Word is a gift I unwrap again just now. Grant that what I see with my eyes may find a place deep in my heart and produce fruit in my life. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

For Review:

1. What are the questions raised by Paul's imaginary Jewish opponent in Chapters 2–3?

2. Why would Paul argue against seeing circumcision as a "guarantee" of one's standing before God?

3. What's the Septuagint, and why is it important?

Romans 3:9–20

4. Someone has called this section "the shattering indictment of humanity." How many times in verses 9–12, does Paul use the pronouns? "all" _____ "none" (or "no one") _____
In both cases, he's making the same point, namely...

5. At what point in your life did you come to a serious realization of your own sinfulness?

6. Jewish rabbis liked to underscore their arguments with a string of Scripture quotes. How many passages are on the "string" in vv. 10–18? _____ What OT references is Paul quoting?

Helpful hint: use your Bible's footnotes.

7. Imagine that a friend of yours said he didn't like hearing "fear of God" in verse 18. How would you explain what those words mean to you?

8. According to verse 20, what's the purpose of the law?

Romans 3:21–26

9. Ed McMahon used to introduce Johnny Carson with "And now, here's Johnny!" Verse 21 begins with the words "But now..." What is here being introduced?

10. Twice in these verses, we read the phrase “righteousness of God.” How would your understanding of this phrase change if it read “righteousness FROM God”?

11. Paul says that “all have sinned and fall short” (v. 23). According to Isaiah 59:2, what is the result of our sins?

12. The word “redemption” (v. 24) in Greek is a term borrowed from the slave market. The release of a slave was obtained by the payment of a “ransom.” Who are the slaves Paul has in mind?

What is the ransom?

13. Verse 25 contains a word strange to our ears: “propitiation.” Look up this word in a dictionary (or “google” it). What words would make good synonyms?

Romans 3:27-31

14. When Luther translated verse 28, he added the word “alone” after faith, though it was not in the Greek text. Why might he have done that?

15. In verse 31, what’s the charge Paul anticipates from his opponents?

16. In this section of Romans, what was your biggest discovery?

Your most puzzling question?

Memory Verse Challenge for Chapter 3:

Romans 3:23-24 *For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.*