

III

Final Arguments

ROMANS 3:1–8

Then what advantage has the Jew? Or what is the value of circumcision? ² Much in every way. To begin with, the Jews were entrusted with the oracles of God. ³ What if some were unfaithful? Does their faithlessness nullify the faithfulness of God? ⁴ By no means! Let God be true though every one were a liar, as it is written,

“That you may be justified in your words,
and prevail when you are judged.”

⁵ But if our unrighteousness serves to show the righteousness of God, what shall we say? That God is unrighteous to inflict wrath on us? (I speak in a human way.) ⁶ By no means! For then how could God judge the world? ⁷ But if through my lie God’s truth abounds to his glory, why am I still being condemned as a sinner? ⁸ And why not do evil that good may come?—as some people slanderously charge us with saying. Their condemnation is just.

READ | ROMANS 3:1–8

THINK ABOUT

Whether it is in a sport or in the workplace, people are always looking for an advantage. In sports, teams consider playing at home an advantage. Championships are often won and lost because of home court advantage. Advantages set up a team or company to succeed.

In this passage, Paul argues that the Jews had a tremendous religious advantage. God's divine Word was given to them through the law and the prophets. It was not God's fault that the Jews had been unfaithful even though they were given the very words of God. God has been and always will be faithful and just!

APPLY

What about you? If you are reading this and have chosen to open your Bible today, you are at an advantage! God is literally speaking to you through His Word. Think about that. The God of the universe has revealed Himself to you and has given you an opportunity to respond to the Gospel. Will you take advantage? Let's trust these words, live by these words, and act on these words.

ASK

How much do you value the Word of God?

Over the past seven days, can you honestly say that you have treasured the Word of God?

How can you make it a habit to read your Bible daily?

THE BIG IDEA

Having put forth the case that all Jews are guilty of sin and stand condemned before God, now Paul presents final arguments as the Jews debated with him. The Jews posed three questions: What advantage is it to be a Jew? Will Jewish unbelief cancel God's faithfulness? If sin commends God's righteousness, how can He judge us?

KEY POINTS

Jews are privileged to have been entrusted with the oracles of God (vv. 1–2).

The unfaithfulness of Jews does not cancel God's faithfulness but establishes it (vv. 3–4).

The righteous Judge ultimately determines when and how to judge (vv. 5–8).

LIFE APPLICATION

Jews have a special relationship with God, but they are equal with humanity.

The depth of man's depravity cannot lead God to become unfaithful to His promises.

God sees and judges all with righteousness and equity.

DISCUSSION

How did the Jews come to have a special relationship with God?

Could God's relationship with the Jews be considered partiality?

What similarity exists between God's treatment of the Jews and the blessings given to you?

