

**As we come to Romans 2:17 – 3:20,  
Paul continues his analysis  
of the fallen human condition.  
It is ...**

Romans 2:17 – 3:20

# More



**One of the real dangers is pride.  
Paul is applying Jesus' teaching as  
seen in the parable of the Pharisee  
and the tax-collector.**



Luke 18:9-14

To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everybody else, Jesus told this parable..

Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself.. “God, I thank you that I am not like other men--robbers, evildoers, adulterers--or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.”

But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, “God, have mercy on me, a sinner.” I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God.

**Paul tackles the 'superior' attitude that some of the Jews had in 'looking down' on the gentile 'sinners'. 2: 17 ...**

**Their behaviour is no better!**

# Superior?

Now you, if you call yourself a Jew; if you brag about your relationship to God; if you know his will and approve of what is superior because you are instructed by the law; that you are a guide for the blind, a light for those who are in the dark, an instructor of the foolish, a teacher of infants,



in the law the embodiment of knowledge and truth-- you, then, who teach others, do you not teach yourself?

relationship to God; and approve of because you are if you are convinced guide for the blind, are in the dark, an foolish, a teacher because you have

**The 'superior' attitude doesn't just apply to those people of Paul's day.**

## This can apply to the church-goer also!



**Trusting in our knowledge, connections, traditions, gifts and abilities.**

**Looking down on the learner, the poor, the ignorant, the broken.**





**This is such a persistent problem.  
John the Baptist had to deal with it in  
his ministry.**

## Continuing John the Baptist's work. (Luke 3:7 – 9)



**John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, `We have Abraham as our father.` For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham.**

**The axe is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire."**

**The result of such arrogance had  
brought shame on God's name.**

**2:24**

# God's Name

=

**BAD NEWS**

**The problem was that these Jewish people considered such matters as circumcision, Sabbath observance and kosher food observance as conferring privileged status. These were known in the Essene community as “the works of the law” which Paul vigorously challenges.**

**The NIV misses this point in its translation of 3:20**

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**Paul challenges this claim by  
questioning how you can know the  
genuine from the false ...**

## Romans 2: 28 - 29



A man is not a Jew if he is only one outwardly



**It's what is on the inside... this is just  
as true for the Christian's claim.**

Going to church  
doesn't make you a  
Christian any more  
than standing in a  
garage makes you  
a car.



**Paul now goes on to deal with  
criticisms that objectors might raise**

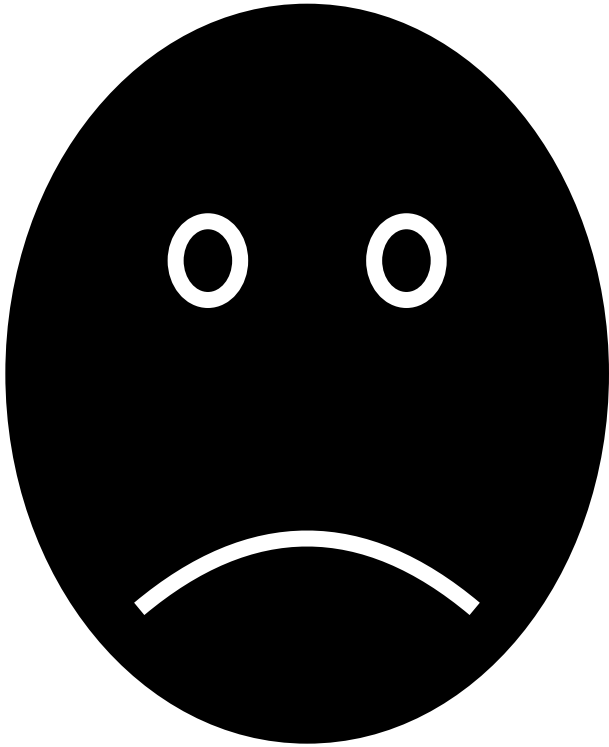
**...**

# The Ah –BUT-ers



**No. 1 if it's that bad what's the advantage of being a Jew?**

## Objection No. 1



**Then what's the point  
of being a Jew?**

**His answer is more fully given later in the letter, but for now he says that they have been given God's word – the scriptures !**

**No 2 . The next criticism is that if the Jews have not turned to God, then God's plan has failed.**

Objection No. 2

God

YOU HAVE  
FAILED





**This is answered more fully later in the letter in chapters 9 – 11.  
In the plan they will respond in the end.**

## Objection No. 3



**We're doing God  
a favour!  
So why does he  
blame us?**

**No 3. Paul dismisses this criticism with the contempt it deserves.**

**And so he sums up his analysis by saying ..**

Romans 3: 9

**We're all in the same sinking boat!**



**He quotes scriptures that  
demonstrate the man is a sinner from  
head to foot ..**

# Romans 3: 10 - 17



**We are sinners,  
this I know,  
for the Bible  
tells me so!**

**The fundamental problem is that men are devoid of the “fear of God”. Earlier he had linked godlessness as the cause of wickedness.**

[The Reason Why!](#)



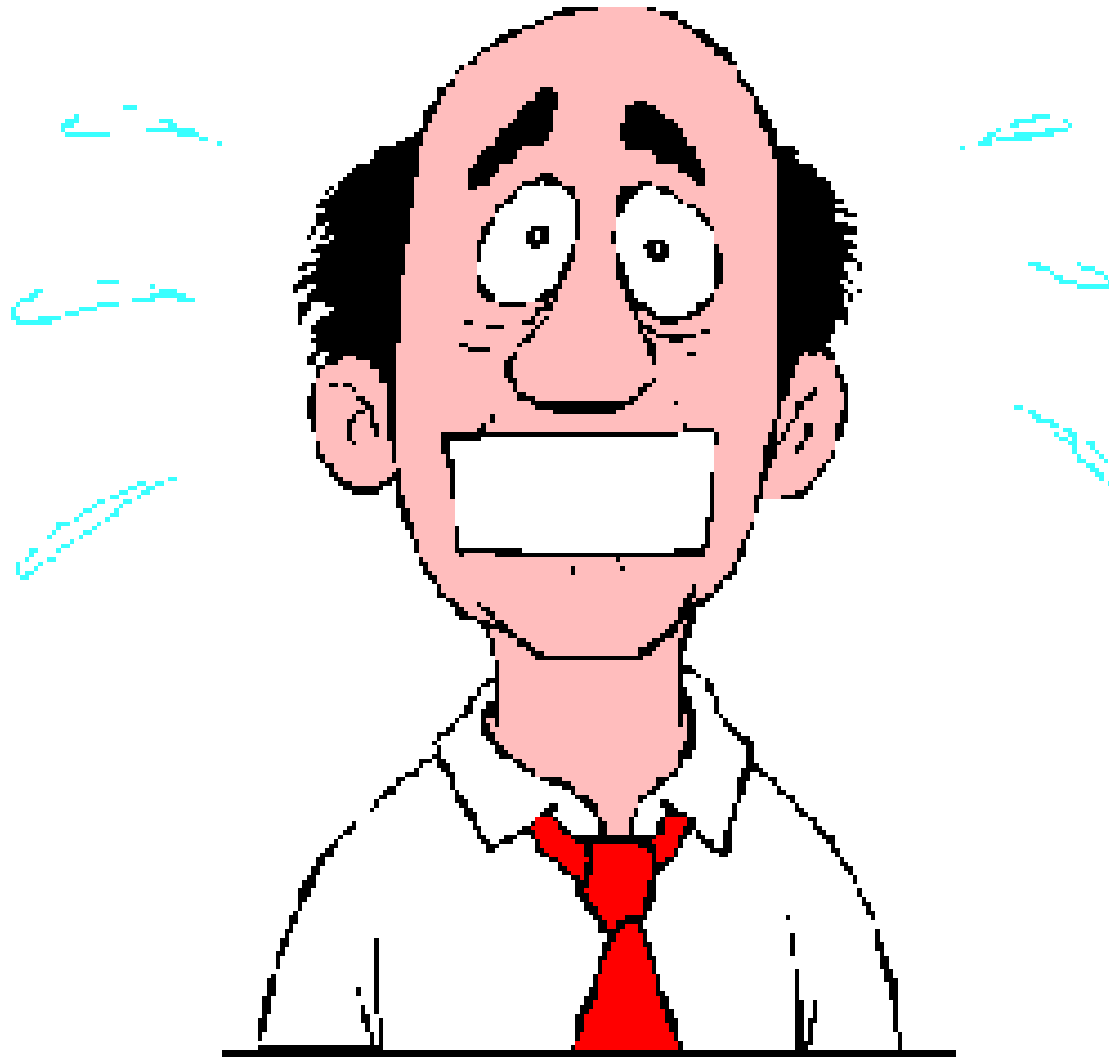
**See Romans 1: 18**



**But when men stand before the Judge on that day there will be no excuses and no ‘smart’ answering back.**

**Men are not declared right with God by the “works of the Law” (those particular ‘merit markers’), but by trusting in what God has done for us in Christ.**

What have you got to say?



**And so the recognition of the “bad news” is a vital stage in preparing men for responding to the “Good news” of what God has done in Christ. And it removes all grounds for boasting, pride and supposed superiority.**

Romans 3: 20



John 16: 8 – 11

**When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment.. in regard to sin, because men do not believe in me; in regard to righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; and in regard to judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.**