

Easy As 1-2-3



Romans 3¹

It's As Easy As 1-2-3

Select where you would like to begin and enjoy!

1-Overall Understanding (below)

2- Detailed Study Notes

These notes include Romans 1-3.

3-Listen and Learn

This video covers Romans 1-3.

Overall Understanding

Chapter Three²

What advantage then has the Jew, or what is the profit of circumcision?

² Much in every way! Chiefly because to them were committed the oracles of God.

The Jews had an advantage over the Gentiles. They had written Scripture containing the words of God.

³ For what if some did not believe? Will their unbelief make the faithfulness of God without effect? ⁴ Certainly not! Indeed, let God be true but every man a liar. As it is written:

“That You may be justified in Your words,
And may overcome when You are judged.”

¹ C. D. Hildebrand

² Scripture taken from the New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

The fact that someone does not believe does not mean God is a liar. He is speaking about the Jews. God is incapable of lying.

⁵ But if our unrighteousness demonstrates the righteousness of God, what shall we say? Is God unjust who inflicts wrath? (I speak as a man.)

⁶ Certainly not! For then how will God judge the world? ⁷ For if the truth of God has increased through my lie to His glory, why am I also still judged as a sinner? ⁸ And why not say, “Let us do evil that good may come”?—as we are slanderously reported and as some affirm that we say. Their condemnation is just.

Paul will elaborate on this in Romans 6. He was accused of saying that they should do evil so that good will come.

⁹ What then? Are we better than they? Not at all. For we have previously charged both Jews and Greeks that they are all under sin.

¹⁰ As it is written:

“There is none righteous, no, not one;

¹¹ There is none who understands;
There is none who seeks after God.

¹² They have all turned aside;
They have together become unprofitable;
There is none who does good, no, not one.”

¹³ “Their throat is an open tomb;
With their tongues they have practiced deceit”;

“The poison of asps is under their lips”;

¹⁴ “Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness.”

¹⁵ “Their feet are swift to shed blood;

¹⁶ Destruction and misery are in their ways;

¹⁷ And the way of peace they have not known.”

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

Because the Jews had the oracles of God, they were not better than the Gentiles. He declares that both groups do the above. There is no fear of God in their eyes.

¹⁹ Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. ²⁰ Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

The Law reveals the sinfulness of man. It puts all on a level plain. All are guilty before God.

Don't miss this important statement: By the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight. **No one can be made righteous by following the law or by keeping any religious law.**

²¹ But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, ²² even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe.

What is this? The Jewish ears are listening intently:

The righteousness of God is revealed APART FROM THE LAW.

Righteousness/justification is through faith in (through believing in) to all and on all who believe (not by keeping the Law).

This either got their attention or made them furious.

For there is no difference; ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

First of all, don't tell a Jew that he is the same as a Gentile. But Paul is declaring that when it comes to sin, all have sinned and fallen short of God's glory.

²⁴ being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,

Verse 23 is often quoted and memorized, but it is on the first half of the thought. Everyone is guilty because all have sinned, BUT Jesus died to give us redemption—the forgiveness of sin. We are made righteous freely (as a gift) by His grace (not through keeping the law).

²⁵ whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, ²⁶ to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

Jesus paid the price for our sin. The wages of is death. He died to remove our sins from us. The proves Hs rifhteousness. He is the

one who makes us righteous, and this righteousness comes by believing in Jesus and not in keeping the law.

In this way, he presents an equal footing for the Jews and Gentiles. Both were guilty. Both are made righteous through faith in Jesus.

²⁷ Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? Of works? No, but by the law of faith. ²⁸ Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law.

One cannot boast about a gift. Righteousness/justification is a gift. Then he says it again:

Therefore, we conclude that a man is justified/made righteous by faith APART FROM THE DEEDS OF THE LAW.

²⁹ Or is He the God of the Jews only? Is He not also the God of the Gentiles? Yes, of the Gentiles also, ³⁰ since there is one God who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith.

God is the God of Jews and Gentiles. He justifies the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised by faith.

³¹ Do we then make void the law through faith? Certainly not! On the contrary, we establish the law.

The law remains. It is not to be discarded. It has a purpose, but it does not make a believer righteous. We can only be made righteous by faith.

So what is the purpose of the Law in the lives of believers today? First, for the Jews, it was added because of sins, to be a tutor to lead them to Christ. As Paul says in Galatians, "But after faith has come, we are NO LONGER UNDER A TUTOR."

Galatians 3:19

What purpose then does the law serve? It was added because of transgressions, till the Seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was appointed through angels by the hand of a mediator.

1 Timothy 1:9-11

But we know that the law is good if one uses it lawfully, knowing this: that the law is not made for a

righteous person, but for the lawless and insubordinate, for the ungodly and for sinners, for the unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers,¹⁰ for fornicators, for sodomites, for kidnappers, for liars, for perjurers, and if there is any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine,¹¹ according to the glorious gospel of the blessed God which was committed to my trust.

Believers in Jesus Christ are the righteous. We received this righteousness by faith and not by keeping the law. But the law is good IF IT IS USED LAWFULLY. Its current lawful purpose is for the ungodly.

This is why we are not opposed to the public posting of the Ten Commandments. Even though believers are not made righteous by keeping them, sinners need to know what sin is so that they see their need for a Savior.

Coming Up in Chapter 4

Paul states clearly that we are justified by faith and not by works, using the example of Abraham.

He makes a surprising statement: Where there is no law, there is no transgression.

The amazing faith of Abraham and Sarah is discussed, and their righteousness by faith is compared with ours. We are righteous because we believe.