Romans 3

In Romans chapter two, the Apostle Paul makes it clear that both Jews and Gentiles are guilty sinners before God and without excuse or defense for choices made. In Chapter three, Paul opens this paragraph, verses 1-9, with a series of questions, a typical thing for a learned Rabbi to do. He asked the questions and then gave the answers. The questions are as follows:

- "What advantage does the Jewish person have over the Gentile?" or better stated in this context, "What is the profit of circumcision?"
- What if some Jews did not believe?" Which is the obvious case in context.
- 3. "Will their unbelief make the faithfulness of God without effect?"
- 4. "...If our unrighteousness demonstrates the righteousness of God?"
- 5. "Is God unjust who inflicts wrath?"

- 6. "...How then will God judge the world?"
- 7. Based on Paul's answer to the previous question, he asks, "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?"
- 9. "What then? Are we better than they?" That is, "Are Jews any better than Gentiles or Gentiles any better than Jews?"

The Apostle answers the questions and then quotes the Psalms and other passages to defend his answers. Please notice that Paul's Scripture quotations are within context and not randomly chosen to fit his particular argument. Please listen to the podcast to understand the meaning of the well-quoted verse Romans 3:23.

Prayer and Action Steps

Look at the answers to the questions in Romans 3:1-18. Then, read the rest of the chapter in light of Paul's answers and his further explanation of what he is getting across to all of us in Romans 3:19-31. This will get us ready for what he is going to say in Chapter 4.