

The Advantage of the Scriptures

(Rom 3:1-2)

- Having proven the Jew in the same position as the gentile, the apostle now addresses possible objections
- I. Mechanics
 - A) Romans chapter 3 begins a new section which concludes the theme started in Rom 1:18 and ends in 3:20
 - 1. Rom 3:1-8- Deals with difficulty of Jews and the Law after the conclusion reached in ch 2
 - 2. Rom 3:9-20- Paul calls in the Old Testament testimony to substantiate his teaching
 - i. Rom 3:19-20- Summary statement
 - 3. Rom 3:21-31- Paul returns to the method of salvation first mentioned in 1:17
 - i. This is part of the following section which runs through 4:25, but was included by men in ch 3
 - ii. The great theme of this section is 3:25-26- Why salvation had to be by grace through faith
- II. Rom 3:1-2- Paul poses 2 possible questions here: advantage of being a Jew, profit of circumcision
 - A) Rom 3:1- Objections: The conclusions reached in chapter 2 would leave one possible supposing that the Jew had no advantage and the call of Abraham was a waste of time
 - 1. “You have concluded the Jew is under the wrath of God same as the gentile, and also that the gentile could be saved without the law, so then the assumption must be its better to not be a Jew at all, if what you’re saying is true”
 - i. But Paul has never said there is no advantage to being a Jew or circumcision
 - a) He has only said that being a Jew/circ. will not save you
 - b) In fact he has said there is advantage (Rom 2:25)
 - ii. What Paul has proven is true of both the unbelieving Jew as well as the unbelieving gentile
 - a) There is absolutely no difference in the guilt nor in the manner of salvation
 - 2. The true problem with this objection is a misunderstanding of the word and meaning of “Israel” as defined by God

- i. Rom 9:6- This is the key to understanding the arguments of this book as well as the defense against dispensationalism
 - a) Rom 3:3-4- The advantage of the Jew is not diminished by the unbelievers
- B) Rom 3:2- Answer: There is much advantage to being a true Jew, or of the family of them
 - 1. Terms
 - i. Chiefly- “first of all, in the first place, supremacy”
 - ii. Committed- “entrusted”
 - iii. Oracles- “divine utterance, revelation of God, words spoken by God”
 - a) This is an altogether different word than the Greek word referring to the pagan soothsaying “oracles”
 - b) This word is used 4 times in scripture:
 - 1) Acts 7:38- Referring to the Law
 - 2) Rom 3:2- Referring to entire O/T
 - 3) Heb 5:12- Referring to the gospel
 - 4) 1 Pet 4:11- Referring to all scripture
 - 2. There can be no greater thing said of any man than that God has spoken to him
 - i. Psa 147:19- “He hath showed His word to Jacob, none other nations”
 - a) Rom 2:17-23- The Jew understood this was a great privilege
 - ii. Paul lists this as the Jews greatest advantage, and not the Red Sea, or Passover, or crossing the Jordan, etc. because of the nature of faith
 - a) Rom 10:17- Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God
 - 1) Great advantage to have the word of God to convict us and lead us to repentance
 - b) Deut 8:3- Man doesn’t live by bread alone, but.....
 - 1) Matt 4:1-11- The Lord’s use of the word of God
 - iii. If this is the greatest advantage a man can have, then there can be no greater loss suffered than for God to quit speaking to a man
 - a) Amos 8:11- Famine of hearing God’s word
 - b) 1 Cor 2:9-14- No greater curse than blindness
 - 1) Consider the “silent treatment”
 - c) Look at Satan’s attacks on this privilege down through the ages
 - 1) Consider the cause of the “Dark Ages”
 - 2) Look at Rome’s hatred of the bible
 - 3) Example of the priest and the Irishman with his “search warrant”
 - iv. Paul does not say this is the Jews only advantage, but goes on to list many of them later in Rom 9:1-5

- a) But to what avail were all these promises if the Jew remained in unbelief? The greatest blessing then becomes the greatest curse
 - 1) Luke 12:48- To whom much is given, much required
 - v. Eph 2:11-12- The horrible position of the gentile
- 3. The Jew not only “possessed” the word of God but was “entrusted” with it
 - i. Entrusted to defend it against error
 - a) Jude 3- “earnestly contend” for the faith once delivered
 - b) Phil 1:17- Paul set for “defense of the gospel”
 - c) Phil 1:27- “Striving together for the faith of the gospel”
 - d) Tit 1:13- Rebuke them that they may be “sound in the faith”
 - ii. Entrusted to publish it among the nations
 - a) This was the whole purpose of the outward nation Israel, and why they were set apart in the first place

III. What about us today?

- A) If the greatest advantage and responsibility of the Jew was his being entrusted with the O/T scriptures, what about we who have the complete word of God?
 - 1. Do we treat our bibles as our greatest possession? Not the book itself, but the truth revealed in it
 - i. Do we read it, study it, pray over it with a sincere desire to commune with God Who speaks to us there through the Holy Spirit?
 - a) Beware of just forming habits and regimens
- B) 1 Cor 4:1- Believers today have also been entrusted with His word
 - 1. “Stewards of the mysteries” or the utterances of God revealed
 - 2. 2 Cor 5:20 “As though God did beseech you by us”
 - 3. 1 Tim 6:20- “Keep that which is committed to thy trust”
 - 4. 1 Pet 4:10- “Good stewards of the manifold grace of God”
 - 5. Matt 5:14-16- No man lights a candle for nought

IV. Is it an advantage today to come from a Christian home?

- A) 2 Tim 3:14-15- “From a child thou hast known the holy scriptures
 - 1. 2 Tim 1:5- Timothy’s advantage
- B) Consider the advantage of Spurgeon, the Wesley’s, Edwards, John Newton, etc.
 - 1. It most certainly is a great advantage to come from a Christian home if one be a believer, but if an unbeliever, the advantage then will be a curse at judgment day
 - i. Compare Esau and Jacob, the sons of Isaac
 - ii. Use example of what the Lord showed me with Seanna