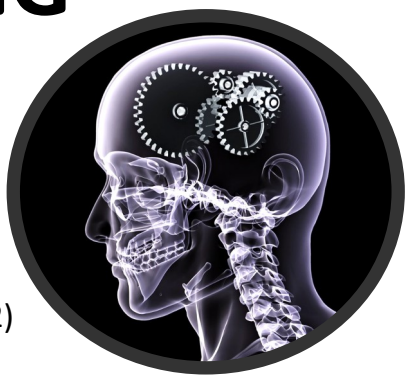
"TWISTED REASONING"

(Perverted Logic)



Romans 3:1-8

HRM – 3-25-2023

INTRODUCTION: Man will think up most anything in an attempt to escape accountability before God and responsibility for his sin (v. 1-2)

***Beware of twisted reasoning!**

2 twisted ideas to watch out for:

I. Twisted Idea #1 -
"GOD EXCUSES <u>UNBELIEF</u>" (V. 3-4)

A. Remember: <u>God is believable</u>, whether others believe Him or not (v. 3-4a)

B. Remember: <u>God is true</u>, even if everyone else is a liar (v. 4b)

II. Twisted Idea #2 -
"GOD EXCUSES <u>SIN</u>" (V. 5-8)

A. God does not excuse sin,
Even if your unrighteousness makes His righteousness shine brighter (v. 5-6)

B. God does not excuse sin,
Even if your lies reveal the glory of His truth (v. 7)

C. God does not excuse sin,
Even if good was to result from doing evil (v. 8)

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11-17-2019

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V. 1

"Then" - refers back to chapter 2 where Paul systematically knocked away the supporting legs that a Jew rested on for salvation [1) self-righteousness; 2) partiality with God; 3) the Law; 4) the name Jew (circumcision)]

After boldly stating that a true Jew was not one who merely had the name or had the external mark of circumcision, and after showing that God desires a right heart relationship to Him, a Jew would then naturally ask: "If this is the case, what is the advantage of being a Jew? (i.e. what does a Jew have "over and above" anyone else - if anything?) or what is the benefit of the circumcision?

"What's the big deal about being a Jew?"

Answer: They had the great privilege of being entrusted with the oracles (words, sayings, or promises) of God.

What a privilege it was! Of all nations, God revealed Himself exclusively through this nation.

V. 2

We (like the O.T. Jews) have been entrusted with God's Word. If a Jew were responsible because he was entrusted with the O.T., how much more are we, who possess the whole Bible?

In verses 3-8, Paul, knowing the mindset of a Jew, asks 3 questions that might be in their thoughts at this point.

NOTE: The questions reveal a defective mindset. Having been proven to be sinners, thoughts might arise about the possibility of avoiding <u>accountability</u> for sin.

Anyone who would ask such questions is not concerns that God would be shown faithful, righteous and true, but is trying to justify unbelief and sin, and to escape accountability.

***Beware of twisted reasoning!**

2 twisted ideas to watch out for:

I. Twisted Idea #1 -
"GOD EXCUSES UNBELIEF" (V. 3-4)

A. Remember: God is believable, whether others believe Him or not (v.3-4a)

Someone might think, "God will excuse my unbelief if enough people don't believe."

V. 3

"The faith" = the faithfulness

"Without effect" = invalid; null and void

Man's unbelief does not alter God's believableness one bit!

Even if not one person on earth believed God's word was true, it would not alter the fact that It is!

V. 4

"God forbid" = lit. "may it never be". contemporary sayings: "never happen;" "No way"; "impossible." Such a thought is unthinkable!

ILLUS: of a little girl who didn't want to look at me so she blocked her eyes and said, "You are not there."

To not see a reality does not remove the reality.

ILLUS: I could say, "I don't believe that George Washington crossed the Delaware" and I could deny that Christopher Columbus sailed the Atlantic and I could say that the Declaration of Independence was not signed by John Hancock on July 4, 1776, and I could disbelieve that Johann Gutenberg invented the printing press in 1450, or that Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone in 1876, or Thomas Edison the light bulb in 1879.

For me to deny these facts does not detract their validity, does it?

I would be called a fool to deny those facts, because the evidence is all documented! So is the evidence of a Creator God.

--to disbelieve a promise does not nullify that promise.

--to distrust the validity of a warning from God, does not render that warning worthless.

--though every man on earth believed in evolution, this would not change the fact that "God created the heavens and the earth" (Gen. 1:1)

--though every man on earth believed that man evolved from the ape and other lower forms of life, this wouldn't eradicate the fact that "God created man in His own image" (Gen. 1f:27).

--though every man on earth denied the miraculous, this would not undo the miraculous crossing of the Red Sea by Israel; the miraculous supply of manna for 40 years, the miraculous supply of water from a rock in the wilderness, the miraculous deliverance of Shadrack, Meshach, and Abednego from the fiery furnace; Christ's feeding of the 5,000 with 5 barley loaves and 2 small fish; the resurrection of lazarus, etc.

--though every man on earth, denied Christ's atoning, substitutionary death and bodily resurrection, this would not nullify the declaration that "Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures..." (I Cor. 15:3-4)

--though every man on earth believed that salvation was by works, this would not destroy the true doctrine of salvation by grace through faith (Eph. 2:8-9)

--though every man on earth refused to believe that Jesus was coming back, this would not alter His promise "I will come again" (Jn. 14:3); and "Behold, I come quickly" (Rev. 22:7)

--Though every man on earth refused to believe in a literal hell and lake of fire, this would not alter the darkness of hell (Jude 13), nor diminish the torment of hell (Lk. 16:23; Rev. 14:11), nor quench the flames of hell (Mk. 9:43-48); nor decrease the eternal time frame of hell (Mt. 25:41)! Millions who died, denying the existence of hell, are firm believers in it now!

God is faithful to His word whether you believe it or not!

B. Remember: <u>God is true</u>, even if everyone else is a liar (v. 4b)

Someone might think, "God will excuse my unbelief, since no one is trustworthy nowadays."

Often a wrong concept of God is derived from man when he thinks that God is like he is.

God corrects this mistaken notion in Ps. 50:21 - "Thou thoughtest that I was altogether such an one as thyself: but I will reprove thee..."

V. 4

God is true whether men see Him as truthful or not!

Paul says Let God be continually found true, though every man be found a liar. Even if every man on earth were a liar, God would still be true.

"Justified" = to be proven right, or shown to be right in What God said.

Paul is quoting Ps. 51:4 (LXX), where King David admits his sin against God and only (Ultimately) against God - then says that God is justified when He speaks (and points out man's sinfulness), and blameless when He judges. [NOTE: the Greek word can be translated middle or passive. Since the Hebrew text from which this verse is quoted would support the middle voice, the verse should read as follows: "...and mightest overcome when <u>thou art judging</u>."

God will overcome (conquer; be victorious) when He judges man. Man may question God, but God will always have the last word.

II. Twisted Idea #2 - "GOD EXCUSES SIN" (V. 5-8)

A. *God does not excuse sin,* **Even if your unrighteousness makes His righteousness shine brighter** (v. 5-6)

V. 5

"Commend" = demonstrates; shows off; or lit. makes "stand out"

ILLUS: suppose we observed the every day behavior of 2 people. One was totally wicked. The other was totally righteous. The great contrast between the two would show how different they were, and would highlight the good qualities of the righteous man.

If I hung a black piece of felt cloth over the pulpit, and then glued a pure white piece of cloth in the middle of it, the contrast would be great and the white would really stand out, wouldn't it?

Man's unrighteousness enhances God's righteousness.

The reasoning is: If man's unrighteousness gives God an opportunity to display how righteous He is, isn't man actually accomplishing something good?

If therefore, man is accomplishing a good end by his unrighteous behavior, Is God wrong to be angry with man's sin? No!

"If man's unfaithfulness and sin bright about greater glory to God, how can He justly punish man for it?" (G. Thomas, Romans, p. 96).

To say it another way, the question is: "Does God have a right to be angry because of my sinfulness, when my sin actually made God's righteousness stand out all the more?"

God will receive glory from everything man ever did.

EX: God received glory from Pharaoh by his refusal to let Israel go (Rom. 9:17).

And God receives glory when anyone speaks his words, and serves Him by His power.

I Pet. 4:11 - "If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God: if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen."

God is glorified by every would that goes to Heaven (because they are perpetual testimonies of His love and grace), and I believe that God will even be glorified by those who got to Hell (because they will be perpetual testimonies of His holiness and righteousness).

(Throughout the book of revelation, God is glorified because of His righteous judgments - Rev. 11:13; 14:7; 15:3-4; 16:5-7; 19:1-3).

"I speak as a man" = from a human perspective; from the viewpoint of a lost, unregenerate, spiritually ignorant person who things that God might be unrighteous to take vengeance (pour out His deep-seated anger).

V. 6

God could not judge the world if He was guilty of unrighteousness Himself.

A judge cannot be guilty of that which he is condemning others for.

There is no escaping judgment just because God's righteousness stands out against the back drop of your unrighteousness.

B. ***God does not excuse sin,***
Even if your lies reveal the glory of His truth (v. 7)

V. 7

Paul follows up on what he said (in v. 5-6) by using himself as a hypothetical example.

"Abounded" = increased in abundance.

EX: "Where sin abounded, grace did much more abound" (Ro. 5:20)

--The darker a society gets, the brighter God's grace shines

--The dirtier man reveals himself to be, the more powerful the cleansing of God appears.

NOTE: It is not sin that glorifies God, it is His righteousness <u>in contrast</u> to it that glorifies Himself.

NOTE <u>contrasts:</u>

--God's <u>faithfulness</u> is contrasted with man's <u>unbelief</u> (v. 3, 4)

--God's <u>righteousness</u> is contrasted with man's <u>unrighteousness</u> (v. 5-6)

--God's <u>truthfulness</u> is contrasted with man's <u>lies</u> (v. 7)

The reason God is glorified, is because His truth shines out against the back drop of man's falsehood.

One day God will be shown to be true.

Against the back drop of man's lies throughout history, God's truth will shine out. But sin is not justified!

C. ***God does not excuse sin*,**
Even if good was to result from doing evil (v. 8)

V. 8

Since Paul proclaimed that good works do not save, the unbelieving Jews were accusing Paul of preaching "lawlessness" (anti-nomianism). They rationalized, "If God is glorified, regardless of how we live, why not live anyway we want?"

This twisting of Paul's teachings was no doubt what Peter had in mind in II Peter 3:16.

The suggestions: "Let us do evil that good may come" is similar to Rom. 6:1 where Paul asks: "Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound?"

Salvation by grace is not a "green light" for sinning.

Justification of the sinner must not be confused with justification for sinning.

God can turn the <u>evil</u> actions of men into a <u>good</u> result (EX: Joseph - Gen. 50:20a - "But as for you, ye thought evil against me: but God meant it unto good." cp. Gen. 45:5-8).

<u>But this never justifies doing evil!</u>

Justifying evil because of good results is wrong!

ILLUS: 1) It's like criminals saying, "Because we committed crimes, this prompted man to invent guns that can be used for good purposes (EX: game hunting) Therefore didn't we do good?" NO!

2) Suppose the AIDS epidemic (causes by homosexuality) encouraged men to do such extensive research that they found an antibiotic (vaccine) that not only cured AIDS, but all blood-related viruses. Could the homosexuals say, "See what we did actually resulted in good happening. Were we wrong for our behavior? Should we be judged by God?" YES!

<u>Lying</u> for a good end is never justified (EX: Rahab)

<u>Stealing</u> for a good end is never justified. (EX: Robin Hood; Israel plundering the Egyptians at the Exodus Passover Night).

CONCLUSION:

In the day we live in, we must beware of twisted reasoning:
There is no excuse for unbelief.

There is no excuse for sin.