

DIVERSIONS FROM THE GOSPEL

Romans 3:1-8

"Sanctify them
by the Truth.
Your Word is
Truth"
John 17:17

I. Introduction

A. Whenever you talk to an unbeliever about the Gospel you sometimes end up with some unanticipated diversions.

B. It all started in the garden.

C. We mustn't think that Paul wrote generically, with no one in mind.

D. Paul has been approaching this like a prosecutor in a court of law might.

II. Objection # 1: Why Be Religious? 1-2

A. The Jews were essentially objecting to Paul's teaching about universal sinfulness because in their minds it destroyed their special standing with God.

B. The Jews were arguing that special favor means special privilege.

III. Objection # 2: Why not give up on God since He has given up on us? 3-4

A. There is a grain of truth in the objection.

B. Let God be true but every man a liar. 4

IV. Objection # 3: Why bother being good if my sin makes God look good by extending grace and forgiveness to me when I sin? 5-8

A. The person who talks like this is really accusing God of using sin to his own advantage.

B. The fatal flaw is easy to spot: When I sin, I'm doing God a favor!

- This kind of teaching cannot be right for two reasons:
- First, if sin somehow glorifies God, then how can God judge the world? (verse 6)

- Second, if sin glorifies God, how can he judge the people who do such things? (verse 8)

C. There is no such thing as "good" sin.

V. Conclusion

A. Once a person has sinned, they display an amazing ability to justify their sin.

B. Once a person turns from his sin, God displays an amazing ability to forgive their sin.