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When in Romans
Religion Versus The Gospel

Four Corners Church
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Surely, it isn't that bad!
Paul overcomes common objection to the Gospel message.

Is there any real benefit to church involvement?

Romans 3:1-2 *Then what advantage has the Jew? Or what is the value of circumcision? Much in every way. To begin with, the Jews were entrusted with the oracles of God.*

God blesses His Word - living it blesses your life and your eternal life.

Three primary views of the Bible in churches today:

- 1). Perfect from God
- 2). Imperfect from people
- 3). Mix 1 and 2 so you or your favorite scholars chooses what parts matter

Hypocrites in the church make church involvement not worth it.

Romans 3:3-4 *What if some were unfaithful? Does their faithlessness nullify the faithfulness of God? By no means! Let God be true though every one were a liar, as it is written, "That you may be justified in your words, and prevail when you are judged."*

God is faithful to His word – believers are saved, unbelievers are judged.

God is too "judge-y" – I'm out (unloving and unrighteous for God to punish people).

Romans 3:5-6 *But if our unrighteousness serves to show the righteousness of God, what shall we say? That God is unrighteous to inflict wrath on us? (I speak in a human way.) By no means! For then how could God judge the world?*

I want God to deal with them, but not me

God judges:

1. Cross (Jesus pays)
2. Hell (you pay)
= Accept Jesus who trades wrath for righteousness

Good things came from my bad choices, so why does God care?

Romans 3:7-8 *But if through my lie God's truth abounds to his glory, why am I still being condemned as a sinner? And why not do evil that good may come?—as some people slanderously charge us with saying. Their condemnation is just.*

God will accomplish His good will AND we will be held accountable for our choices.

Pervasive Depravity Impacts All Of Life

Romans 3:9-18 *What then? Are we Jews any better off? No, not at all. For we have already charged that all, both Jews and Greeks, are under sin, as it is written: "None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one." "Their throat is an open grave; they use their tongues to deceive." "The venom of asps is under their lips." "Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness." "Their feet are swift to shed blood; in their paths are ruin and misery, and the way of peace they have not known." "There is no fear of God before their eyes."*

The World	vs	The Word
I am good		God alone is perfect
I decide right/wrong		God defines right/wrong
I blame external systems		God blames internal sin
I rebel against authority		God rules with all authority
I deserve tolerance		God deserves repentance
I am a victim		God and others are my victims
I accept myself		God forgives me
I love myself		God loves me (in me, through me)
I make myself better		God makes me new

Bad News for "Good" People

Romans 3:19-20 *Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.*

Good News for Bad People

Romans 3:21-22 *But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe.*