



Obviously, the law applies to those to whom it was given, for its purpose is to keep people from having excuses, and to show that the entire world is guilty before God. Romans 3:19



If there were an Olympic sport for making excuses, what event would you probably medal in? (Examples: "Traffic explanation" "Tech didn't work" "I thought that was tomorrow")

- 1. Read Romans 3:1–4.** Paul begins by acknowledging that God's people had great spiritual privileges, including knowing God's Word. Yet he makes it clear that having access to truth doesn't automatically mean someone is living in alignment with it. Why do people sometimes rely on their spiritual background, knowledge, or church involvement instead of genuinely trusting God? How can spiritual exposure (church background, knowledge, upbringing) become something we rely on instead of something that humbles us?
- 2. Read Romans 3:5–8.** Paul addresses the idea that if human failure somehow highlights God's goodness, maybe it shouldn't really count against us. In other words, if good eventually comes from something wrong, maybe the wrong isn't so bad. Where do people today use similar reasoning to justify behaviour? Why is it dangerous to measure morality by outcomes rather than obedience?

3. **Read Romans 3:9–12.** Paul summarizes the human condition by saying that no one is righteous and no one naturally seeks God. He isn't saying every person behaves as badly as possible, but that everyone shares the same underlying problem. Why is it easier for people to compare themselves with others instead of evaluating themselves honestly before God? What does comparison protect us from admitting?
4. **Read Romans 3:13–18.** Paul describes how sin affects different parts of life — speech, relationships, actions, and ultimately the heart. Notice how much attention Scripture gives to the way people speak. Why do words reveal so much about what is happening inside us? What do our everyday conversations often reveal about our hearts?
5. **Read Romans 3:19–20.** Paul explains that the purpose of the law is to silence excuses and reveal the truth about the human condition. Rather than helping people prove themselves right, it exposes the need for grace. Why do people often treat moral or religious standards like something to climb instead of something that reveals our need for help?
6. **Read Proverbs 28:13.** This verse contrasts concealing sin with confessing it. Why is explaining or minimizing our behaviour often easier than honestly admitting it? What usually changes inside a person when they stop defending themselves and begin to take responsibility?
7. **Read Luke 18:9–14.** In Jesus' story of the Pharisee and the tax collector, both men pray, but only one goes home right with God. What attitudes separated these two men? Why is humility often the doorway to spiritual transformation?
8. **Read Matthew 11:28–30.** Jesus invites weary people to come to Him rather than carry their burdens alone. What burdens do people often carry when they try to justify themselves or manage their own righteousness? How might surrender bring freedom instead of pressure?

