SMITH FOR CHRIST

TEACHING THE WORD · WATCHING THE TIMES

REFLECTION JOURNAL · FIVE DAYS

Romans

Chapter 3

Every Mouth Closed, Then — But Now

MEMORY VERSE · ROMANS 3:23–24

"for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus;"

THIS JOURNAL BELONGS TO _____

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

This week in Romans 3

Romans 3 closes every mouth — the religious man's and the rebel's — and then says two of the best words in the Bible: "But now." This week God is asking you to stop arguing with His verdict on your sin and start resting in His verdict in Christ. You are not on probation; you are justified as a gift.

How to use this journal

1. Each day, read the passage slowly — out loud if you can.
2. Answer the **Observe** question from the text before you write what it means.
3. Write honestly on the **Reflect** questions. No one grades this.
4. Do the **Respond** step today, not someday. Say the memory verse.
5. Bring this journal to the group. The last page is for the table.

The full Deep Dive, the O·I·A study, the slides and the film for this chapter are on the Romans study page.

WHERE I AM AS I START THIS CHAPTER

What is going on in my life right now that I want to bring to God this week?

DAY 1 OF 5

Let God Be Found True

READ · ROMANS 3:1–8

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What does verse 2 say was the first advantage God gave the Jewish people? What does verse 4 say to do when God and man disagree?

REFLECT

"Let God be found true, though every man be found a liar" (v. 4). Where are your feelings or the people around you saying one thing while God's Word says another?

REFLECT

Verse 3 says unbelief "will not nullify the faithfulness of God." When have you been unfaithful and found God still faithful to you?

RESPOND — TODAY

Write down one hard truth God's Word says about you and one promise it makes to you. Agree with God on both today in prayer.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ROMANS 3:23–24)

DAY 2 OF 5

Every Mouth Closed

READ · ROMANS 3:9–20

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Read verses 13–18 and list the body parts Paul names. What does verse 20 say the Law can do, and what can it not do?

REFLECT

Which part of the "X-ray" in verses 13–18 — throat, tongue, lips, mouth, feet, eyes — do you recognize most in your own story?

REFLECT

Verse 18 says the root problem is "no fear of God." What does it look like in a man's daily choices when he has lost his fear of God?

RESPOND — TODAY

The Law is a mirror, not a washbasin (v. 20). Instead of trying to scrub yourself clean today, tell God plainly what you see in the mirror and ask Him to wash you in Christ.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ROMANS 3:23–24)

DAY 3 OF 5

But Now

READ · ROMANS 3:21–24

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What two words open verse 21? According to verse 22, how does the righteousness of God come, and to whom? What does verse 24 say it costs us?

REFLECT

"All have sinned" (v. 23) puts every man at the same level ground. How does that change the way you see the men around you — and yourself?

REFLECT

Verse 24 says we are "justified as a gift by His grace." What part of you still wants to pay for it, and where does that show up?

RESPOND — TODAY

Write your own "But now" sentence: what you were before Christ, and what God says you are now because of verse 24. Read it back to God with thanks.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ROMANS 3:23–24)

DAY 4 OF 5

Just and the Justifier

READ · ROMANS 3:25–26

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Verse 25 says God "displayed publicly" someone. Who, as what, and why? How does verse 26 describe God at the end?

REFLECT

A propitiation is the sacrifice that turns away God's anger — the mercy seat where blood met wrath (v. 25). What does it mean to you that Jesus took that place in the open, not in secret?

REFLECT

God is "just and the justifier" (v. 26): He did not ignore sin; He paid for it. How would you explain that to a man who thinks he is too far gone?

RESPOND — TODAY

When guilt over old sin comes back today, answer it with verse 26 out loud. Thank Jesus that the debt is paid and justice cannot ask for more.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ROMANS 3:23–24)

DAY 5 OF 5

Boasting Shut Out

READ · ROMANS 3:27–31

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What does verse 27 say happens to boasting, and why? According to verse 28, how is a man justified?

REFLECT

Where does boasting still sneak into your faith — your clean time, your Bible knowledge, your service (v. 27)?

REFLECT

Verses 29–30 say there is one God for every kind of person, justifying all by faith. Which kind of person do you find hardest to see as an equal at the foot of the cross?

RESPOND — TODAY

Do one quiet act of service today without mentioning it to anyone. Give the credit for any good in you back to Christ in prayer.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ROMANS 3:23–24)

WHEN THE GROUP MEETS

Questions for the table

FOR THE GROUP · 1

Verse 8 shows people twisting grace into "Let us do evil that good may come." How have you seen grace misused, and how does real grace actually change the way a man lives?

FOR THE GROUP · 2

Verse 22 says "there is no distinction." What walls between people — background, record, race, church tradition — does the gospel tear down in a group like ours?

FOR THE GROUP · 3

Paul says faith does not cancel the Law but establishes it (v. 31). How has trusting Christ made you take God's commands more seriously, not less?

MY PRAYER

Father, my mouth is closed and I have nothing to plead but Jesus; thank You that "but now"…

CUT OUT · CARRY IT · ROMANS 3:23–24

"for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus;"