

WHAT BRINGS US TO GOD?

Romans 3:1 (NIV) *What advantage, then, is there in being a Jew, or what value is there in circumcision? ² Much in every way! First of all, the Jews have been entrusted with the very words of God.*

³ *What if some were unfaithful? Will their unfaithfulness nullify God's faithfulness?*
⁴ *Not at all! Let God be true, and every human being a liar. As it is written: "So that you may be proved right when you speak and prevail when you judge."*

Matthew 16:18 (ESV) *And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*

Romans 3:5 (NIV) *But if our unrighteousness brings out God's righteousness more clearly, what shall we say? That God is unjust in bringing his wrath on us? (I am using a human argument.) ⁶ Certainly not! If that were so, how could God judge the world? ⁷ Someone might argue, "If my falsehood enhances God's truthfulness and so increases his glory, why am I still condemned as a sinner?" ⁸ Why not say—as some slanderously claim that we say—"Let us do evil that good may result"? Their condemnation is just!*

- No one seeks God (vs. 11)
- All have turned away (vs. 12)
- Their tongues practice deceit (vs. 13)
- Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness (vs. 14)
- There's no fear of God before their eyes (vs. 18)

²¹ *But now* apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify.

²³ *for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,*

QUESTION: What brings us to God?

1). Justification

²⁴ *and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.*

2). Atonement

²⁵ *God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement,^m through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith*

3). Faith

²⁷ *Where, then, is boasting? It is excluded. Because of what law? The law that requires works? No, because of the law that requires faith.²⁸ For we maintain that a person is justified by faith apart from the works of the law.*