

## God Has a Purpose that Will **NOT** Fail

Romans 3:1-8

In our text, which many call the most confusing text in Romans (i.e., John Piper, D.M. Lloyd-Jones), we see great logic! In Romans 1 and 2, Paul has shown how all people, even Jews, are worthy of God's condemnation. This is foreign to the Jewish mind. In concluding his initial section on the universality of guilt, Paul anticipates five questions that might be asked by the **lost** "*according to the language of the children of men*" (v.5).

**(1). *What profit is there in being raised in a moral environment?*** (v.1)

Being raised in an environment where God is revered is an excellent profit. You have the advantage of hearing from God and knowing the truth (the oracles of God).

**(2). *Has God's purpose failed because of somebody's faithlessness?*** (v.3)

No, God is always faithful to His purposes and promises --- even when men are not. A quote from Ps 51:4 illustrates God's faithfulness despite us (v.4) (Read it aloud).

(a). God made David a promise that the Messiah of Israel would spring from him.

(b). David's sin with Bathsheba did not negate the promise of God toward David.

God used David's sin to fulfill His promise through Bathsheba's son Solomon.

**(3). *If someone's faithlessness fulfills the purpose of God, is God unrighteous when He punishes sin?***

Perish the thought! That would mean the cross is unrighteous, and judgment day is wrong. At the cross, God punishes the sins of His people in their substitute. On the day of judgment, those without relationship with Jesus Christ will be judged as well. God is glorified in the death of His Son (grace) and the judgment of sinners (justice).

**(4). *But why does God judge me as a sinner if my sin is used for His glory?*** (v.7).

**(5). *Should we not seek to do evil that good may come from it?*** (v.8).

These two questions are similar in that the answers to the two questions are not found in the text. Paul does say, "*He who thinks this way is worthy of damnation.*"

(a). A person who has come into relationship with Christ has "*died*" to sin.

(b). This change of nature has led to a change of heart and desire.

(c). A Christian may fail, like David, but there is pain produced by the sin.

(d). God uses the agony of our mistakes to "*grow us up in the knowledge of grace.*"

These five questions should lead us to some conclusions regarding our Christian walk:

**God has a plan and a purpose for me that will not fail due to my unfaithfulness.**

It doesn't mean your failures won't hurt, but that God is faithful to you through them.

**God has fully punished my sin on the cross of Calvary, and now I live "*for Christ.*"**

I don't live bound by some law, or accountable to some priest, but I live for Christ.

**Some might slander us by saying, "*They abuse grace by making light of sin.*"**

Those who seek to preach the gospel of God's grace will be slandered in this manner.