

Why God Chose Us to Have Bibles

Text: [ROMANS 3:9-29](#)

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Sunday, May 16, 2004

I would like to begin my message this morning with a question. When we talk about the rate at which people sin, is there any difference between a person who professes to be a child of God and a person who does not profess to be a child of God? When it comes to the whole question of suppressing truth, do people who profess to be Christian have a better track record than those people who do not profess to be Christian? Do people like us who have the Bible and read the Bible and study the Bible on a regular basis violate less truth than people who do not read the Bible?

I believe the answer to this question that is strongly implied in today's scripture lesson is an emphatic "no." Listen again to the words of [ROMANS 3:9](#). "What shall we conclude then? Are we any better? Not at all!"

Sin is extensive. It is all-inclusive. It affects all people. The words recorded in [ROMANS 3:10-12](#) make this point very clear. They are words taken from the 14th and 53rd Psalms. They are God's analysis of the universal corruption of man. "There is no one righteous, not even one. There is no one who does good, not even one." [ECCLESIASTES 7:20](#) says the same thing. "There is not a righteous man on earth who does what is right and never sins." The important thing for us to realize here is that even those we classify as born-again Christians are included in this description.

And not only is sin extensive, affecting all men; it is also intensive—affecting the whole man. No part of man can escape the affects of sin. The mouth, the throat, the tongue continually bear witness to the inward darkness that resides in every man. Paul again quotes from the Psalms, this time [Psalm 5:9](#). But there are other passages that say the same thing. [MATTHEW 15:17-20](#) and [JAMES 3:1-4](#) also tell us how the verbal expressions of people reveal the dark condition of their hearts.

And then, Paul goes on to quote from [ISAIAH 59](#). He calls attention to the busy activity of man in conflict and war that leaves a path of misery in his way. The disgusting images coming from Iraq this past week illustrate very vividly the words recorded in [ROMANS 3:13-18](#). "Their feet are swift to shed blood; ruin and misery mark their ways, and the way of peace they do not know. There is no fear of God before their eyes."

To say that "this is not the Muslim thing to do" or "this

is not the American thing to do" or "this is not the Christian thing to do" does not change the facts. Iraqis and Americans, Muslims and Christians all have the capacity of doing those kinds of things. Sin is intensive in the life of every person.

Of course, there would be people who would disagree with me. They would point out that, when the Apostle Paul wrote [ROMANS 3](#), he was not trying to compare Christians to non-Christians. Rather he was comparing Jews to Gentiles. But I contend that it really doesn't matter. Certainly there are differences between the Old Testament Jew and the New Testament Christian. But when it comes to the question of suppressing truth, there is virtually no difference whatsoever. Both the Old Testament Jew and the New Testament Christian have the Holy Scriptures and read the Holy Scriptures and even study the Holy Scriptures. And both groups suppress the truth as much or even more than people who do not read and study the Bible.

Sure it can be argued that people who read and study the Bible tend to obey a whole lot more truth than those who don't read the Bible. It stands to reason that people who know more truth would have a tendency to obey more truth. But reason and experience both tell us that people who know more truth also suppress a certain portion of truth that they do know. And the amount of truth they suppress is actually often more than amount of truth being suppressed by people who don't have the Bible.

So when it comes to sinning, are we better off? Do we sin less? I believe the answer to that question must be, "No, not at all."

So what is the whole point of having and reading and studying the Bible? If we cannot decrease the amount of truth we are suppressing by reading the Bible, then why should we read it? What is the purpose of reading and studying the Bible?

The answer to this question is also the main point of today's scripture lesson. I believe the answer can be found in verses 19 and 20. Let's look at those two verses in detail. Verse 19 starts off with these words, "Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law..." I think a fair paraphrase of these words would be "What the Bible says, it says to those who read the Bible."

Have you ever marveled at how privileged you are to have the Bible and to be able to read the words of the Bible whenever you want? The majority of people on the face of this earth have never had that privilege. And the fact that we have such an honor has nothing to do with us. It is God who has put us in a place where we have opportunity to be exposed to this very special Book. We have been chosen by God to receive the special revelation contained in the Book.

And, for what purpose have we been chosen to receive this revelation? The words that follow reveal a two-fold purpose. The first purpose is to silence us. The kind of silence being talked is born out of a consciousness of our own sin revealed to through the words of the Bible. Once we have read what is truly required of man, there is nothing to say. There are no excuses we can make. We must stand alone in the court of heaven with our mouths stopped in silence—no backtalk, no rebuttal, no evasion of the issue. We are all guilty of sin, and we are all deserving of death.

I am really enjoying Pastor Tim's series on the Book of Judges. I have never done an in-depth study on that particular book, and I am learning new things. With each judge I am presented with an example of a certain godly quality that I should have in my own life. This is extremely beneficial, and it is not by chance that God has placed me in this church to be exposed to truth about the kind of person I should be. Nor is it by chance that He has placed you here in this church to hear the same truth.

But, what is the purpose of it all? Is it so we can boast that we now know how to live as God's people? Is it so we can look at the behavior of others and criticize them for not living the way they should? No! Those

are not the reasons why God has chosen to reveal to us His godly standards. He reveals His godly standards to us so that we will fall to our knees and admit that we lack the inward power to keep the standards.

We need to reexamine our feelings when we feel proud just because we have a lot of Biblical knowledge. Having the Bible and reading the Bible should not produce pride; it should produce a kind of humbleness that will cause us to seek power to put into practice the truth found in the Bible. Experiencing power to put Biblical truth into practice is the essence of Biblical faith. You don't receive it unless you want it, and you don't want it unless you realize just how bankrupt you are without it.

Causing us to become silent in the sense of trying to make excuses for our failures so that we will cry out for salvation is one reason why God has chosen us to be exposed to the Bible. Proclaiming the truth of the Bible to the nations is the second reason. God has given us this special revelation, not so we can possess it for ourselves alone; it is so we can proclaim the truth we know to the nations.

We miss the whole point when we decided to wait until we have stopped sinning to start proclaiming the truth. That will never happen. We are obliged to proclaim the truth even when we know we are failing to obey the truth in our own lives. Is that hypocritical? It is hypocritical if we pretend we are obeying the truth when we really are not. God desires that people from all nations become accountable to the truth found in the Bible. And His method of transmitting that truth is through people like you and me who already have the Bible.