

Sermon Series: Book of Romans

Sermon title: "An Advantage of Access"

Scripture Reading: Romans 3:1-9

Clearwater Bay International Baptist Church

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Opening illustration:

In missions, we like to talk about those who have no access to the gospel vs those who do have access. Hong Kong, for example still has access to the gospel. People may know a Christian. They can buy a Bible in their language. They can attend a church service. Most people in Hong Kong, if they woke up tomorrow morning and wanted to find out about Christ, would not have much trouble finding him.

On the other hand, there are many people in the world, about 2 billion who have little or no access. They don't know a Christian. They don't have a Bible or can't find one if they wanted one. They don't have a church in their area. Access is lacking.

Which nation had the most access to God?

The Jews.

They are God's chosen people to be a kingdom of priests to the nations.

But does that access give them an advantage?
Do the Jews have an alternate path to God besides Christ?

Let's pray.

The main point for today's message is this:

Those who have access to the truth and knowledge of the truth have an advantage, but still need to trust in Christ.

Here are my main points if you are taking notes.

There are 3 questions that we need to address.

- I. Do Jews have an advantage?**
- II. Do God's promises to the Jews still stand even though they've been unfaithful?**
- III. Do Jews get automatically saved?**

So, let's dive into the text.

Romans 3:1-9

1 Then, what advantage has the Jew? Or what is the value of circumcision? **2** Much in every way. To begin with, the Jews were entrusted with the oracles of God. **3** What if some were unfaithful? Does their faithlessness nullify the faithfulness of God? **4** By no

means! Let God be true though every one were a liar, as it is written, "That you may be justified in your words, and prevail when you are judged." **5** But if our unrighteousness serves to show the righteousness of God, what shall we say? That God is unrighteous to inflict wrath on us? (I speak in a human way.) **6** By no means! For then how could God judge the world? **7** But if through my lie God's truth abounds to his glory, why am I still being condemned as a sinner? **8** And why not do evil that good may come?—as some people slanderously charge us with saying. Their condemnation is just. **9** What then? Are we Jews any better off? No, not at all. For we have already charged that all, both Jews and Greeks, are under sin,

I. Do Jews have an advantage?

3 Then, what advantage has the Jew? Or what is the value of circumcision? **2** Much in every way. To begin with, the Jews were entrusted with the oracles of God.

Now Paul has stated in Chapter 2, as James preached on last week that...A real Jew (who receives the promises of God) is not just a Jew ethnically but a Jew in their heart.

Let's look at that text so that we know what chapter 3 is about.

2:28-29

For no one is a Jew who is merely one outwardly, nor is circumcision outward and physical. But a Jew is one inwardly and circumcision is a matter of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter.

So, if a non-Jews can become Jews, then....and we come to chapter 3.... **3** Then, what advantage has the Jew? Or what is the value of circumcision? **2** Much in every way. To begin with, the Jews were entrusted with the oracles of God.

You may be surprised here at the answer, "Much in every way", we will see some of these ways.

But here it says just one, "the Jews were entrusted with the oracles of God."

This is a big deal. To this one ethnic group, God gave the Scriptures. That's an advantage. Not much of an advantage now, because many of us have the Scriptures but in the beginning....just the Jews got the word of God.

But that's not the only advantage.

Chapter 9:4–6 tells us more.

They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the Law, the worship, and the promises. To them belong the

patriarchs and from their race according to the flesh, is the Christ, who is God over all, blessed forever. Amen.

Think about the advantage the Jews had!

Wow to all of the things listed.

God chose them and adopted them as his special people.

They saw his glory.

He entered into covenant relationship with them.

He wrote down his law for them.

He taught them how to worship.

He promised them that they would be heirs of the world. **Romans 4:13**

Their advantage was an advantage of access to God.

Other nations did not have special revelation.

They had everything! A kingdom of priests to God.

And as Jeremiah said, *Has a nation changed its gods, even though they are no gods? But my people have changed their glory for that which does not profit.*

12 Be appalled, O heavens, at this; be shocked, be utterly desolate, declares the Lord, 13 for my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters, and hewed out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns that can hold no water.

So, oh yes the Jews have an advantage. An advantage of access to the truth. But they were unfaithful. Which leads us to our second question....

II. Do God's promises to the Jews still stand even though they've been unfaithful?

This is addressed in **verses 3-8** and laid out in detail in **Chapters 9-11**.

3 What if some were unfaithful? Does their faithlessness nullify the faithfulness of God? **4** By no means! Let God be true though every one were a liar, as it is written, "That you may be justified in your words, and prevail when you are judged." **5** But if our unrighteousness serves to show the righteousness of God, what shall we say? That God is unrighteous to inflict wrath on us? (I speak in a human way.) **6** By no means! For then how could God judge the world? **7** But if through my lie God's truth abounds to his glory, why am I still being condemned as a sinner? **8** And why not do evil that good may come?—as some people slanderously charge us with saying. Their condemnation is just.

This is a tough tough passage. I just want to point out the main thing and we will save the details for Chapters 9-11.

He says clearly that [Does their faithlessness nullify the faithfulness of God? 4](#) By no means!

So the answer is ,“Yes, God’s promises to the Jews still stand even though some were unfaithful.”

And Paul is anticipating some hypothetical questions that could arise like, “Well if the Jews unrighteousness makes God look even more righteous (the chasm is greater so he looks better), then why not just sin?

And if he chose us Jews and there was nothing we could do about it, then how can he judge us?

Paul doesn’t elaborate much, but just says people who think like this are condemned. More about this in Chapters 9-11.

But the question is answered here briefly now....

II. Do God’s promises to the Jews still stand even though they’ve been unfaithful?

And the answer is yes. Kind of.

Remember that in the end of chapter 2 we saw that the promises are for those who believe by faith and not just in the ethnic Jews.

But God still has a plan to take away their ‘*partial hardening*’. [Romans 11:25](#)

But that brings us to our THIRD point and question.

- I. Do the Jews have an advantage? Yes.
- II. Do God's promises to the Jews still stand, even though some of them were unfaithful? Yes.

III. Do Jews get automatically saved?

Verse 9 What then? Are we Jews any better off? No, not at all. For we have already charged that all, both Jews and Greeks, are under sin,

I love how Paul seemingly contradicts himself.

In **verse 1**....Do Jews have any advantage? Much in every way.

In **verse 9**....Are Jews any better off? No, not at all.

Jews have an advantage....but not that kind of advantage. They have an advantage of access for sure. Do they have a head start? Sure.

But they don't get a different gospel and they don't get an alternate way to be saved. They must come through Christ.

No, not at all. For we have already charged that all, both Jews and Greeks, are under sin,

There is emphasis here....ALL...Jews & Greeks is another way to say....ALL are under sin.

And in the rest of **chapter 3** we have the gospel in all of it's glory showing just how all are under sin and what God does to solve that.

But Jews and Greeks and Chinese and Americans alike all are under sin and need a savior.

Remember how it all goes back to **Romans 1:16-17**
For I am not ashamed of the gospel for in it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first (advantage) and also to the Greek. For in it (the gospel) the righteousness of God is revealed.

You may be here today and you may be like some of the Jews and think that your outward religious affinity is what saves you.

You may think that you're a good person, you went to a Christian school, you were baptized as a baby even, if you're anything....you're a Christian.

But it's all outward religion.

Nothing has happened in your heart.

You don't know Christ.

You got just enough to make you think that you're fine.

You're not fine. You are UNDER sin.

He died on the cross for your sins and he rose from the dead and is alive and has the power to pull you out from UNDER sin.

Turn to him today to be saved.

Christian, you and I are also like the Jews of Paul's day.

We have so much access.

Oh how privileged you and I are to have a Bible.

We can pray whenever we want.

We can attend fellowship whenever we like.

Why do you have such access to the truth?

What are you doing with that access?