

TAKING ADVANTAGE OF WHAT GOD HAS ENTRUSTED TO US

Romans 3:1,2

Introduction:

- Chapter 2 has argued that anyone, regardless of race, can be a true Jew by f_____ in Christ
- The apostle Paul imagines a person objecting to this conclusion in the form of a q_____
 1. Then what advantage is there for the Jew?
 2. This same question can be asked of Christians living in America – what advantage do we have that Christians in other parts of the world may not have?
- Are you taking advantage of your Christian liberties?
 1. If you these liberties are taken away from you, will you kick yourself for taking them for granted?
 2. Let us not live in regret but take full advantage of what we have as Christians living in America.

Explanation

- Understanding the imaginary objector's line of reasoning
 1. *If a true Jew is not a physical Jew but is anyone who has faith in Christ, then what a_____ did the Jewish nation have?*
 2. *If true circumcision is a spiritual operation and not a physical operation, then what b_____ was there in the covenant of circumcision?*
- Understanding Paul's answer to the imaginary objector.
 1. His general answer: there are _____ advantages
 2. His specific answer, part one:
 - a. Compare translations of the Greek:
first of all (NAS, NIV, NLT) – first in order (1st, 2nd, 3rd)
chiefly (KJV, NKJV) – first in rank
 - b. Since Paul never gives a second advantage we must understand that he is listing the most i_____
 3. His specific answer, part two: - the Jewish nation was entrusted with the “oracles” of G_____”
 - a. This Greek word is used only in Acts 7:38; Rom 3:2; Heb 5:12; I Pet 4:11 and refers to d_____ revelations from God.
 - b. These messages were given through p_____
 - c. The Old Testament scriptures are a w_____ record of God's revelations to the nation of Israel.
 - d. Israel was to be conveyers of God's message to the w_____ (Ex 19:5,6)
- What did Israel do with God's messages through the prophets? – they i_____ it, r_____ it, and even persecuted the messengers!

● **Application** – two advantages that Christians take for granted

1. To gather for mutual e_____ (Heb 10:24,25)
 - a. We must do this all the more as we see the day of Christ drawing n_____ (so how much more urgent is this for us than the immediate audience of this letter!)
 - b. Gathering together is not the end, but the m_____ to a further activity of motivating, stimulating, inspiring, each other to:
 - 1) L_____ (God and people)
 - 2) Do g_____ works (what God wants)
 - c. The action requires great t_____ (consider how, think hard about it)
2. To possess the B_____ - we should become familiar with it, receive it, and live it for it informs, reforms, and transforms.
 - a. Luke 11:28 – Brings happiness when received & applied
 - b. John 15:7 – Enables us to know how to pray according to God's w_____
 - c. Eph 6:17 – Equips us to counter S_____ schemes
 - d. Col 3:16 – If it dwells richly within us, it enables us to be w_____ encouragers
 - e. 2 Tim 3:17 – Equips us to do God's work
 - f. Heb 4:12 - Uncovers what is hidden in our h_____
 - g. James 1:21 – Is able to save (rescue) our souls (mind, will, and emotions) from sin
 - h. I Pet 2:2 – Produces spiritual g_____ (nourishment)

***Are You Taking Advantage of What
God Has Entrusted to You?***