

¹⁷ But if you are named Judeans, do you rest upon the law and boast in the Creator? ¹⁸ Do you know his desires and examine the things which are distinguished while being instructed from the law? ¹⁹ Are you convinced that you yourself can guide the Way for the blind, be a light to those in darkness? ²⁰ Are you a trainer of the foolish, a teacher of children, having the form of knowledge and truth from the law? ²¹ But, you who are teaching others, you are not teaching yourself! You who proclaim, “*Do not steal,*” you are stealing! ²² You who say, “*Do not commit adultery,*” you commit adultery! You who are detesting idols, you worship in human temples! ²³ You are boasting in the law, yet you are dishonoring the Creator by transgressing that same law! ²⁴ Just as it is written in Isaiah 52, “*The Creator’s name and reputation is damaged among the ethnic-groups because of you.*” ²⁵ For circumcision is useful if you practice the law, but if you violate the law then your circumcision has become a corruption of the flesh. ²⁶ Therefore, if the uncircumcised person keeps the righteous things of the law, then will not his uncircumcision be considered circumcision? ²⁷ The uncircumcised person who completes the law will judge you who violate the law by means of the letter and circumcision. ²⁸ For the one who appears to be a Judean is not. Circumcision is not in the appearance of the flesh. ²⁹ The Judean has the hidden circumcision of the heart—which is through the Spirit, not through the letter! This person’s status is not from humans but from the Creator.

^{3.1} Therefore, what is the advantage of the Judean and what is the benefit of circumcision? ² Many, according to all kinds! First, they were entrusted with the words of the Creator. ³ But what if some were not faithful? Does their unfaithfulness nullify the Creator’s faithfulness? ⁴ Absolutely not! The Creator is truthful, even while every human is a liar! Just as it is written in Psalm 51, “*So that you might be made righteous in your words and be victorious when you are judged.*” ⁵ But if our unrighteousness in contrast shows the Creator’s righteousness, what will we say? Is the Creator unrighteous for bringing anger? I am speaking according to human logic. ⁶ Absolutely not! Otherwise how could the Creator judge the cosmos? ⁷ But if the Creator’s truth is enhanced by my falsehood for his glory, then why am I still judged as a sinner? ⁸ This is like when we are blasphemed and some say about us, “Let us do evil things so that the good things will come.” Their judgment is well deserved!

⁹ What then? Are we better? Not at all! We have already said Judeans and Greeks are all under sin. ¹⁰ Just as it is written in Psalm 14, “*There is no one righteous, not even one. ¹¹ There is no one who understands. There is no one who is seeking the Creator. ¹² All have turned away. They have together become corrupted in character. There is no one who is kind, not even one.*” ¹³ And in Psalm 5, “*Their throats have become open graves. They deceive with their tongues. Their lips hide poisonous snakes.*” ¹⁴ And in Psalm 10, “*Their mouths are full of hatred and bitterness.*” ¹⁵ And in Isaiah 57, “*Their feet are quick to shed blood. ¹⁶ Brokenness and misery are in their paths. ¹⁷ They do not know the Way of peace.*” ¹⁸ And in Psalm 36, “*There is no fear of the Creator before their eyes.*” ¹⁹ We know that whatever the law says, it says to those under the law so that every

mouth might be silenced and all of the cosmos might be under the righteousness of the Creator.²⁰ Therefore, all flesh will not be made righteous before him from the works of the law. For through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

²¹ But now apart from the law, the Creator's righteousness has been revealed, as testified to by the law and prophets. ²² The Creator's righteousness comes through the faithfulness of Christ Jesus for all who are faithful. There is no difference. ²³ For all have sinned and have been lacking in the Creator's glory. ²⁴ They are being freely made righteous by his generosity through the liberation which is in Christ Jesus. ²⁵ The Creator set forth a mercy-seat through faithfulness to Christ's blood. This was to demonstrate his righteousness for passing over previously committed sins. ²⁶ The Creator is patiently demonstrating his righteousness in the present time. For he is righteous and he is the one who makes righteous the one who lives from the faithfulness of Jesus. ²⁷ Where then is boasting? It is prevented. Because of what kind of law? The law of works? No! It is prevented because of the law of faithfulness. ²⁸ For we consider a person to be made righteous by faithfulness, apart from the works of the law. ²⁹ Or is the Creator only the Creator of the Judeans and not also the Creator of the ethnic-groups? Yes, he is the Creator of the ethnic-groups! ³⁰ Since the Creator is one, he will make righteous the circumcised through faithfulness and those uncircumcised through faithfulness. ³¹ Do we then eliminate the law because of faithfulness? Absolutely not! We instead stand in the law!