

Romans 3:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For if the truth of God hath more abounded through my lie unto his glory; why yet am I also judged as a sinner?

Analysis

For if the truth of God hath more abounded through my lie unto his glory; why yet am I also judged as a sinner? Paul restates the objection in first person for rhetorical effect. If *hē alētheia tou theou* (ἢ ἀλήθεια τοῦ θεοῦ, "the truth of God") increased (*eperisseusen, ἐπερίσσευσεν*, "abounded") through *tō emō pseu smat i* (τῷ ἐμῷ ψεύσματι, "my lie") to His glory, why am I still judged as *hamartōlos* (ἀμαρτωλός, "sinner")?

The objector personalizes the argument, perhaps suggesting Paul himself is guilty of deception in preaching grace. The underlying error is teleological ethics—judging actions solely by outcomes rather than by intrinsic righteousness. Paul will reject this consequentialist reasoning in verse 8. The question assumes that divine glory justifies any means, a premise the gospel utterly rejects.

Historical Context

This may reflect actual charges against Paul. His enemies accused him of inconsistency (1 Corinthians 9:19-23) and of being crafty and deceitful (2 Corinthians 12:16). The question anticipates the full-blown antinomian objection Paul quotes in verse 8.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How do you avoid the error of judging your actions primarily by outcomes rather than by God's revealed will?
2. In what areas might you rationalize sin by appealing to "good results" or "God's glory"?
3. Why must Christian ethics be rooted in God's character rather than utilitarian calculations?

Interlinear Text

εἰ	γὰρ	ή	ἀλήθεια	τοῦ	θεοῦ	ἐν	τῷ	ἐμῷ
if	For	G3588	the truth	G3588	of God	through	G3588	my
G1487	G1063		G225		G2316	G1722		G1699
ψεύσματι	ἐπερίσσευσεν	εἰς	τὴν	δόξαν	αὐτοῦ	τί	ἔτι	
lie	hath more abounded	unto	G3588	glory	his	why	yet	
G5582	G4052		G1519	G1391	G846	G5101	G2089	
κάγὼ	ώς	ἀμαρτωλὸς	κρίνομαι					
I also	as	a sinner	am					
G2504	G5613	G268	G2919					

Additional Cross-References

Romans 3:4 (Judgment): God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged.