

**God's Privileged People**  
***Romans 3:1 - 2***

*<sup>1</sup>What advantage, then, is there in being a Jew, or what value is there in circumcision? <sup>2</sup>Much in every way! First of all, they have been entrusted with the very words of God.*

**David Jeremiah has written that “perhaps no gift has been so over-looked by mankind, and so taken for granted by the church, than the availability of the Holy Scriptures - the thoughts, instructions and promises of the God of the universe. Paul reminds us of what a treasure we possess.” Indeed, the possession of God’s Word provides us with a powerful source of strength and encouragement for each day. The key to maximizing the Word of God is the diligent, deliberate reading and study of this divine counsel each day!**

**Paul pointed out an advantage that the Jews of His day enjoyed over all other people. The Jews possessed the Word of God (in the form of the Law, the prophets and the writings - what we commonly call the Old Testament). God had communicated directly with the Jews by means of His own voice. This special revelation was in addition to what God had generally revealed to everyone else in the creation and the conscience. As Paul said in 3:2, the Jews were “entrusted with the very words of God.” We remember Jesus’ admonition that to those who have been given much, much will also be required (see Luke 12:48). God Himself acknowledged the special relationship He enjoyed with the Jews who possessed His word in Psalm 147:19-20.**

**This advantage should have enabled the Jews to recognize Jesus as their Messiah. But that did not happen. In some respects, the Jews were “hearers of the word” but not necessarily “doers of the word.” But God’s Word calls readers to both faith and action. One without the other is not sufficient.**

**David Jeremiah has identified at least six privileges that are associated with the Word of God:**

- 1. Through God’s Word we are *converted*.**
- 2. Through God’s Word we are *convicted*.**
- 3. Through God’s Word we are *cleansed*.**
- 4. Through God’s Word we are *comforted*.**
- 5. Through God’s Word we are *counseled*.**
- 6. Through God’s Word we are *corrected*.**

**Perhaps you could identify additional privileges you believe that we enjoy through our exposure to God's Word. How has Scripture impacted you through the years? What formative experiences can you trace back to your encounters with the Bible?**

**God's Word was given to draw us to faith in Christ and to disciple us into the likeness of Christ. While some may try to impose scientific, historical or literary demands upon the Bible, we must first recognize that the Bible is a book of faith...intended to introduce us to God in Christ reconciling the world through the work of Jesus at the cross and our faith in Him. When God's Word draws us to Christ either initially or in a fresh and deeper way, then the Bible has done its job.**

**There are 6,909 known languages spoken in the world today. 2,393 languages have no form of the Bible available to them at all. These 2,393 languages represent over 200,000,000 people who have NO access to the Bible. Only 438 languages have access to the entire Bible (Genesis to Revelation). Give thanks to God for the awesome treasure you possess in your hands!**

#### **Applications . . .**

- 1. During our Romans emphasis, make a devoted effort to read the suggested weekly Bible passages assigned to each lesson. Most passages are brief but they can bless you as you read them.**
- 2. Visit [www.wycliffe.org](http://www.wycliffe.org) to learn more about Bible translation and how you can be involved in helping others access the Bible.**
- 3. Pray for doors to open for people without access to the Bible.**
- 4. Read the Bible yourself. Neglect not the treasure you have - a treasure for which people have sacrificed greatly and even died.**