

Session #35: “GOD’S WILL”—Romans 9:14-24

Monday 7:30pm, H 106 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by doughnut/vending machine area), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – Phil Twente, cell # 714 425 9221; email - philtwente@att.net
For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: <http://www.missioncalvary.com/> Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column under “Site Map”

Note: Reference has been made in the following notes to commentaries on Romans by Pastor Chuck Smith, David Hocking and William Newell.

Questions:

- Is God merciful to all people? Is He good? Righteous? Perfect? Jealous? A consuming fire?
- Does God show mercy to any one on the basis of human worth or performance?
- Does the Bible teach that God hardens the hearts of some? Of believers? Room for boasting?
- Does the Bible teach that God sends anyone to hell?

THE PRINCIPLES OF THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD - Romans 1:18-8:39

- **THE PROBLEMS OF THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD - Romans 9:1-11:36**
- **#1 - THE REJECTION OF ISRAEL - 9:1-33**
 - #2 - THE RECEPTION OF THE GENTILES - 10:1-21
 - #3 - THE RESTORATION OF ISRAEL - 11:1-36
 - #1 - THE REJECTION OF ISRAEL - *Romans 9:1-33*
 - 1A. SEEN IN THE SORROW OF PAUL - 9:1-5
 - 2A. SEEN IN THE SELECTION OF THE SEED - 9:6-13
- **3A. SEEN IN THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD - 9:14-24**

*Rom 9:14 **What shall we say then? Is there unrighteousness with God? Certainly not!***

1st of three main questions - **all answered** with the words “*Certainly not*” - **9:14; 11:1,11** - which means that the thing is unthinkable! (two questions in this context) “*Is there unrighteousness with God?*” & “*Why does He still find fault? For who has resisted His will?*” (verses 14 & 19)

- **1B. The REVELATION of His mercy - 14-18 - cf. Prov. 28:13-14; Luke 18:9-14**

*Rom 9:15 For **He says to Moses, “I WILL HAVE MERCY ON WHOMEVER I WILL HAVE MERCY, AND I WILL HAVE COMPASSION ON WHOMEVER I WILL HAVE COMPASSION.”** Rom 9:16 So then it is **not of him who wills, nor of him who runs, but of God** who shows mercy.*

1C. **The case of Moses** - 15-16 - cf. *Exodus 32:30-35; 33:12-19* - “*For He says to Moses - Ex. 33:19*

This is not a discussion of whether people are believers or not, whether they are saved or not; it is concerned with their assurance of salvation; one can be saved without having assurance of it.

Two reasons for accusing God of being unrighteous:

(1) It seems to us to be unrighteous on God’s part to give mercy to some and not to others.

(2) It also seems to be unrighteous on the part of God to hate and to condemn some before they are born - v. 13

The issue here in vv. 15-16 is **not of righteousness or justice**; it **deals with compassion and mercy**. **If God dealt with any of us in justice and righteousness, we would all be in Hell**, because that is what **we deserve!**

“*There is none righteous; no, not one!*” - *Rom. 3:10*

1D. **God is not merciful to all** – 15 - That is the **false teaching** of so many - universalism (that everyone will be saved! - taught by William Barclay and C. H. Dodd)

2D. **God does not show mercy to any one on the basis of human worth or performance** - 16

1E. **Not by human desire** - “*not of him that wills*”

2E. **Not by human deeds** - “*nor of him that runs*”

NOTE: If God rewarded “**mercy**” to those who wanted it or earned it, then no one would accuse Him of being unrighteous of unjust; The charge arises **because God chooses one and not the other when neither of them has done anything at all**; he has not desired, he has not willed, he has not done anything at all. **God chooses before they are born!** The **real mystery** is **not that everybody is not saved, but that anybody is saved at all!** God owes **nothing to anybody!** - cf. *Isaiah 55:8-9* God often chooses people that no one else would!

Rom 9:17 For the Scripture says to the Pharaoh, "FOR THIS VERY PURPOSE I HAVE RAISED YOU UP, THAT I MAY SHOW MY POWER IN YOU, AND THAT MY NAME MAY BE DECLARED IN ALL THE EARTH." Rom 9:18 Therefore He has mercy on whom He wills, and whom He wills He hardens.

2C. The case of Pharaoh - 17-18 - cf. Exodus 4:21; 7:3-5, 13-14, 22; 8:15, 19, 32; 9:12-17, 27, 34-35; 10:1, 20, 27; 11:10; 14:4, 17-18 - Again - "For the scripture says..." - cf. Gen. 50:20; Psa. 105:23-25; Acts 2:23; 4:27-28; 1 Peter 2:8; Jude 4 - cf. Hebrews 3:12-13 The Bible never states that God ever hardened a believer's heart! Unbelief leads to hardening of the heart.

1D. His design was twofold:

1E. To demonstrate His power "that I may show my power in you"

2E. To declare His name - "that My name may be declared in all the earth"

2D. His decision is therefore sovereign! - "Therefore has He mercy on whom He will, and whom He wills He hardens"

- 2B. His RIGHT to do what He wants - 19-24

Rom 9:19 You will say to me then, "Why does He still find fault? For who has resisted His will?" Rom 9:20 But indeed, O man, who are you to reply against God? Will the thing formed say to him who formed it, "Why have you made me like this?"

1C. The Problem - 19 - This objection proves the point of the passage that God alone determines the salvation of every man. - v. 20 - "reply against" - a spirit of contention - cf. Ecc. 5:2; Isa. 45:9

Rom 9:21 Does not the potter have power over the clay(fallen humanity), from the same lump to make one vessel for honor and another for dishonor? Rom 9:22 What if God, wanting to show His wrath and to make His power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, Rom 9:23 and that He might make known the riches of His glory on the vessels of mercy, which He had prepared beforehand for glory, Rom 9:24 even us whom He called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles? (Nothing!)

2C. The Answer - 20-24

1D. As to our sinful position - 20 - "clay" (fallen humanity) - cf. 2 Cor. 4:3-7 - cf. Psalm 8 - "What is man..." - "the thing formed" - Greek: plasma - our word "plastic" comes from it!

2D. As to His sovereign power to choose - 21 - "the Potter" - Isa. 29:15-16 - Greek: *exousian* - "authority" NOTE: God did not create anything unto "dishonor" - the "clay" refers to fallen humanity - because of our sin, no one deserves mercy, not one! We not only do not deserve mercy, we have no claim upon God to give us mercy! It's miraculous that anyone is saved!

3D. As to His specific plan - 22-23 -

1E. Toward the vessels of wrath - 22 - to make His power known - Greek: *dunaton*

1F. It reveals His power

2F. It reveals His patience - 2 Pet. 3:9 - "prepared for destruction (by our own sin)" - Greek: *katertismena* - what they did to themselves! The Bible does not teach that God sends anyone to hell!!!!

2E. Toward the vessels of mercy 23-24 might make known the riches of His glory - cf. Eph. 2:7

1F. It reveals His glory - No man will ever boast in his glory! Not our performance, His sovereign will!

2F. It reveals the ground upon which that glory is seen "which He had prepared beforehand for glory"

4D. As to His saved people - 24 - "whom He called" - cf. 8:28-30 - WHY ME, LORD, WHY ME? May we continually praise Him!!! To Him be all the glory!! Ps. 116:5-7