

The Potter's Glory

Romans 9:14-33

Carefully read and meditate on Romans 9:14-33.

1. Review- Why is Paul asking whether there is injustice with God? Refer back to the previous verse.
2. The point of verses 15 through 18 is that God has mercy on those whom He chooses to have mercy on. He also hardens whom He wants to harden. Paul knew the logical complaint about this concept, and explains it in verse 19. Rewrite this objection in your own words.
3. Verse 15 contains the words of God to Moses in Exodus 33:19. Turn there in your Bible and read verses 12-23. What does Moses ask of God in verses 13 and 18? What is God's response in verse 19?
4. Verse 17 also quotes Exodus, but this time Paul refers to God's words to Pharaoh. According to this verse, why did God raise Pharaoh up? What does God desire to proclaim both in verse 17 and Exodus 33:19?

5. Now that you have looked at verses 15 and 17 in greater detail, you should have a better understanding of the “why” of verse 18. What is the ultimate purpose of God’s showing mercy to some and His hardening of others?

6. Instead of asking why God does not choose to save all men, the better question to ask is: why does God save anyone? Why did God save you?

7. The word “sovereignty” means “supreme power... freedom from external control... a controlling influence” (Merriam Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary, Tenth Edition). According to the illustration about the potter and the clay, does the clay have any rights? Does the clay have any freedom? Who does the freedom belong to? Why do you think people want to limit God’s freedom, His sovereignty?

8. Have you ever “answered back to God” when you didn’t agree with Him, or understand His ways? What brought about your complaint? Explain how to humbly react to God in situations like these.

9. According to verse 22, what does God want to "demonstrate?" Hypothetically thinking, what if there never was any sin in the world? What if everyone lived in complete harmony with each other, and existed in perfection in the same way Adam and Eve did in the garden of Eden? What would we, His creation, NOT know about God?
10. So according to verse 22, why does God allow sin in the world? Why does He not save everyone?
11. What is God wishing to make known in verse 23? How does he do this?
12. Recall theme of the letter to the Romans in chapter one. Paul's anthem is, "For I am not ashamed of the Gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes..." What does the rest of this verse say and how does it relate to verse 24? How does it affect you?

13. Read Isaiah 1:1-9. What is Israel guilty of in this passage? What happened to Israel? What would have happened to Israel if God had not left "a few survivors?" What happened to these two cities? What would your life be like without God's grace in it?

14. What is the difference between the Gentiles and the Jews according to verses 30 through 32?

15. Who is the stumbling stone in verses 32 and 33? Why is He a stumbling stone for the Jews? (Read I Cor. 1:20-24, Matt. 12:38, 39, and 1 Pet. 2:8 for help)

16. After studying this passage, have any of your questions about election been answered? Are any of them left unanswered? Do you have any new questions? How has this study increased your knowledge, appreciation, and worship of God?

Suggested Memory verses:

“So then it does not depend on the man who wills or the man who runs, but on God who has mercy.” Romans 9:16

“So then He has mercy on whom He desires and He hardens whom He desires.” Romans 9:18