

IS GOD FAIR?

Romans 9:14-29

Rom 9:14, Paul again asks: *Is God unjust? Not at all!*"

How does gospel affect Israel?

RELATIONSHIP OF ISRAEL TO GOSPEL 9-11

Relationship of Israel to God's plan in past 9

Gospel warns of danger of trying to earn acceptance

Only way to approach God is by faith in Christ.

Israel tried to earn their way by keeping law.

Result: in spite of privileged position, they don't enjoy promised blessings; they're under God's judgment

Paul's sorrow 9:1-5

Israel is separated from God; headed for judgment.

Israel's rejection & God's promise 9:6-13

God's promise didn't fail 6a

God is accomplishing His plan as promised.

His promise didn't include ALL Israel 6b-13

It wasn't intended for all who **call** themselves "Israel."

Isn't based on physical descent 6b-10

Isn't based on works 11a

It's based on God's gracious choice 11b-13

IS GOD FAIR/JUST? 9:14-29

***God has right to have mercy on some
and to harden others 14-21***

God chooses to have mercy on some people

14-16 "What then shall we say? Is God unjust? Not at all! ¹⁵For he says to Moses, "***I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, & I will***

*have compassion on whom I have compassion.” ¹⁶It does not, therefore, depend on man’s desire or effort, but on **God’s mercy**.”*

[How do our efforts affect God’s mercy?]

God’s choice doesn’t depend on our desire

God’s choice doesn’t depend on our efforts.

God’s choice depends on GOD’S MERCY

Israel didn’t realize people *always* fail because we’re sinful

We want to do things *our way*.

In spite of *our* condition, God shows *mercy* to *some*.

Emphasis on His mercy; not condemnation.

Repetition of “MERCY” in Rom 9:14-18

God takes UNWORTHY people

and gives us *life* in Christ. That’s MERCY!

God likewise chooses to harden some

Ex.: Pharaoh 17 *“Scripture says to Pharaoh: “I raised you up for this purpose, that I might display my power in you & that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth.”*

Pharaoh’s responsible for his own decisions.

He did what he wanted to do.

Neither Pharaoh, **nor us**, will be able to present ex-cuse that

God made us act as **we choose** to act!

Pharaoh did it wholeheartedly; he *deserves* judgment.

We sin because we have sinful desires; we *WANT* to!

God hardens him showing power & superiority to all gods

God raises up Pharaoh.

God shows His greatness through Pharaoh.

God receives glory because of Pharaoh.

Creator's right: decide how to use what He makes
[What lessons do we learn from Pharaoh's experience?]

18-20 *"God has mercy on whom he wants to have mercy, & he hardens whom he wants to harden. ¹⁹One of you will say to me: "Then why does God still blame us? For who resists his will?" ²⁰But who are you, O man, to talk back to God? "Shall what is formed say to the one who formed it, 'Why did you make me like this?'"*

God has mercy on whom He desires

God hardens whom He desires to harden

People have no right to quarrel with God about
 how He makes us

Sculptor makes sculpture as he wants.

Potter makes pottery acc. to his purpose

21 *"Does not the potter have the right to make out of the same lump of clay some pottery for noble purposes & some for common use?"*

God makes His creatures acc. to *HIS* plan!

He has *Creator's* rights!

Original readers, like modern listeners, object:

"How can God be just if He condemns people for doing what He made us to do?"

All come from 1 lump—*potter's choice* makes them different

Potter's right => make common clay into fine china

Creator's right! He makes clay into anything He chooses!

**God designed plan to receive glory through eternity because of His MERCY & wisdom
God knows what He's doing!**

In both cases, **God is glorified** through His plan.

Creator's right: *"I have mercy on whom I have mercy*

God puts up with people who deserve judgment—waiting for chance to show mercy—so He can be glorified because of **HIS MERCY**

God chooses to transform people who deserve judgment to receive glory for Himself, because of His mercy 22-29

Vessels prepared for destruction 9:22 *"What if God, choosing to show his wrath & make his power known, bore with great patience the objects of his wrath—prepared for destruction?"*

God—Potter of universe—made everything—made it well.

Among things He made are some made for destruction.

God's greatness revealed 2 ways in them:

1. *Patience with undeserving rebels to save many*

God puts up with rebellion—He doesn't "zap" us immediately!

Instead of destroying us, God waits patiently

2. *Victory over enemies seeking to break authority*

God shows superiority over all gods/powers

Vessels made for glory 23-24 *"What if he did this to make the riches of his glory known to the objects of his mercy, whom he prepared in advance for glory—²⁴even us, whom he also called, not only from Jews but also from Gentiles?"*

God's exalted through those to whom He reveals mercy

"Vessels made for glory" include both Jews and pagans

God demonstrates His mercy 9:25-29

Mercy shown 2 ways in 2 groups made for glory:

In neither does it work as Israel expected.

Pagans: Jews *never* thought God would save US!

25-26 *"As he says in Hosea: 'I will call them 'my people' who are not my people; & I will call her 'my loved one' who is not my loved one,'²⁶ & 'It will happen that in the very place where it was said to them, 'You are not my people,' they will be called 'sons of the living God.'"*

God makes unloved outsiders=>beloved insiders

Those who were NOT God's people, have opportunity to become children of God, because of God's mercy.

Jews: not ALL would enjoy God's promise 27-29

"Isaiah cries out concerning Israel: 'Though the number of Israelites be like the sand by the sea, only the remnant will be saved.²⁸ For the Lord will carry out his sentence on earth with speed & finality.'²⁹ As Isaiah said previously: 'Unless the Lord Almighty had left us descendants, we would've become like Sodom, we would've been like Gomorrah.'"

God preserves a remnant among His people though they deserve judgment.

If God doesn't intervene & preserve remnant,
they'll all perish—But God IS merciful.

God shows mercy by saving remnant.

Doesn't matter how religious our heritage!

God delights in taking *pagans*—who weren't His people—transforming us into His people.

He takes unloved and unlovely people, transforms us into beloved ones—*loved by God!*

God delights taking some religious people & calls few

Not because *WE* deserve it; because of His mercy!

[How does God's election relate to Israel's rejection and to our faith in Christ?]

God doesn't condemn people who deserve to be saved; God saves people that deserve to be condemned because of His mercy

God chose us—NOT because He saw our impressive credentials & accomplishments—but because of HIS mercy!

Cause to praise God for His MERCY!

Who receives this gift? Who are these chosen ones?

All who trust His Son

[What does this passage tell us about our attempts to evangelize unsaved people in our community?]

"If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink.

We don't have to worry about people who refuse to turn to Him.

God cares more about them than we ever could!

We must be sure **WE** respond to invitation by trusting Jesus!

Whoever trusts Him receives God's gift of life—by *His* grace!

Will YOU trust Him and receive God's gift?