

OBJECTS of MERCY ~ Romans 9:19-33

→ Scripture Reading Isaiah 45:9, 29:16, Jeremiah 18:4-6

INTRODUCTION

God **IS** Sovereign **AND** Man **IS** Responsible

This is the kind of God we worship: He is **Sovereign**; He is NOT **arbitrary**; in **ALL things** HE works for our good; He **IS trustworthy**; He will Save **ALL who BELIEVE in Him**. That is why we believe that His choices are good even if we don't understand all His reasons. FLSB

→ PULLEY

Romans 9:16-18 (HCS) So then it does not depend on human will or effort but on God who shows mercy. ¹⁷ For the Scripture tells Pharaoh: I raised you up for this reason so that I may display My power in you and that My Name may be proclaimed in all the earth. ¹⁸ So then, He shows mercy to those He wants to, and He hardens those He wants to harden.

Can we Really ARGUE with God? ~ Romans 9:19-21

¹⁹ One of you will say to me: "Then why does God still blame us? For who resists His will?" ²⁰ But who are you, O man, to talk back to God? "Shall what is formed say to Him who formed it, 'Why did you make me like this?'" ²¹ Does not the potter have the right to make out of the same lump of clay some pottery for noble purposes and some for common use?

Isaiah 45:9 (NLT) What sorrow awaits those who argue with their Creator. Does a clay pot argue with its maker? Does the clay dispute with the one who shapes it... ,

Isaiah 29:16 (HCS) You have turned things around, AS IF the potter were the SAME as the clay. How can what is made say about its maker, "He didn't make me"? How can what is formed say about the one who formed it, "He doesn't understand what he's doing"?

Jeremiah 18:4 (NLT) But the jar he was making did not turn out as he had hoped, so he crushed it into a lump of clay again and started over...

IMPLICATIONS

→ Who Can RESIST God's WILL?

¹⁹ ...Then why does God still blame us? For who resists His will?

We may sincerely wonder just how much freedom we have to act within God's Sovereignty, but there is little doubt that **we use the freedom we do have to sin**. LAB

The lesson of the potter points to **equal worth** among lumps of clay, while the Potter's purpose and design may differ. The **proper attitude for clay** is to be **pliable** rather than stiff, **receptive** rather than rebellious, and **grateful** for the potter's touch rather than resentful of the Potter's purpose for us. LAB

God's PLAN Being Worked Out ~ Romans 9:22-29

²² What if God, choosing to show His wrath and make His power known, bore with great patience the objects of His wrath - prepared for destruction? ²³ 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 - ²⁴ even us, whom He also called, not only from the Jews but also from the Gentiles?

No one is treated unfairly: Some receive **the justice they earn and deserve**,

Romans 6:23 (NIV) For the **wages of sin is death**...

others **graciously receive mercy**. MacArthur

...but the **GIFT of God** is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

²⁵ As He says in **Hosea**: "I will call them '**MY people**' who are NOT my people; and I will call her '**MY loved one**' who is not my loved one," ²⁶ and, "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.'"

²⁷ **Isaiah** cries out concerning **Israel**: "Though the number of the 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 and finality." ²⁹ It is just as Isaiah said previously: "Unless the Lord Almighty had left us descendants, we would have become like Sodom, we would have been like Gomorrah."

Quotes from Hosea and Isaiah TEACH us that... LAB

- the **Gentiles** were **INCLUDED** in God's Redemptive plans
- only a **REMNANT** of **Believing Jews** will be Preserved
- It is **FAITH** not national origin that Saves us

IMPLICATIONS

→ **Not ONE Person has to Remain an OBJECT of WRATH**

²² ...bore with great patience the **OBJECTS** of His **WRATH**...

²³ What if He did this to make **the riches of His glory known to the OBJECTS of His MERCY**...

Romans 6:23 (NIV) For the **WAGES of sin is death**...

...but the **GIFT of God is eternal life IN Christ** Jesus our Lord.

Acts 16:31 (NIV) ...**BELIEVE** in the Lord Jesus, and you **WILL BE saved**...

John 5:24 (NIV) I tell you the truth, whoever **hears My word and BELIEVES** Him who sent Me **HAS eternal life** and will **not be condemned**; he has **crossed over** from DEATH to LIFE.

Righteousness Comes by FAITH ALONE ~ Romans 9:30-33

³⁰ What then shall we say? That the Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, have obtained it, a righteousness that is by faith; ³¹ but Israel, who pursued a law of righteousness, has not attained it. ³² Why not? Because **they pursued it NOT by faith but as if it were by works**. They stumbled over the "stumbling stone." ³³ As it is written: "See, I lay in Zion a stone that causes men to stumble and a rock that makes them fall, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame."

Christ is the one whom God puts in everyone's path. People either build on him in faith or stumble over him to their ruin. Wiersbe

Instead of permitting their religious privileges to **lead them to Christ**, the Jewish people had used these privileges **as a substitute for Christ**. Wiersbe

TAKE AWAY ??

1 Peter 2:6-7,8 (NIV) For in Scripture it says: See, I lay a stone in Zion, a **chosen and precious cornerstone**, and the **one who TRUSTS in Him** will never be put to shame.

...and the **one who TRUSTS in Him** will never be put to shame

⁷ Now **to you who BELIEVE**, this STONE is PRECIOUS.

But to **those who do not believe**... ⁸...a rock that makes **them FALL**..

1 Corinthians 1:21-23 (NIV) ...God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to **save those who believe**. ²² Jews demand miraculous signs and Greeks look for wisdom, ²³ but we **preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block** to Jews and **foolishness** to Gentiles...

John 1:12 (NLT) But to **ALL who believed Him** and accepted Him, He gave the right to become children of God.