

## Romans 9 • The Justice Of God's Purpose

### Transcendence / Condescendence-

“Who are you, O man, to answer back to God?”

“Let all the earth fear the Lord; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him! For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm.”

“For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust.”

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

“Mercy by definition cannot be an obligation.

To say that mercy is “unfair” is to say that it is owed to all. But is mercy undeserved, and thus totally free.”

Romans 9:6 **But it is not as though the word of God has failed.** For not all who are descended from Israel **belong to Israel,**

Romans 9:7 and **not all are children of Abraham** because they are his offspring, but “Through Isaac shall your offspring be named.”

Romans 9:8 This means that **it is not the children of the flesh** who are the **children of God,** but the **children of the promise** are counted as offspring.

Romans 9:9 For this is what the promise said: “About this time next year I will return, and Sarah shall have a son.”

Romans 9:10 And not only so, but also when Rebekah had conceived children by one man, our forefather Isaac,

Romans 9:11 **though they were not yet born and had done nothing either good or bad**—in order that **God's purpose of election** might continue, **not because of works** but **because of him who calls**—

Romans 9:12 she was told, “The older will serve the younger.”

Romans 9:13 As it is written, “**Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated.**”

Romans 9:14 What shall we say then? **Is there injustice on God's part?** By no means!

Romans 9:15 **For** he says to Moses, **“I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.”**

Romans 9:16 So **then it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy.**

Romans 9:17 **For** the Scripture says to **Pharaoh**, **“For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I might show my power in you, and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth.”**

*Two stated reasons/purpose: To show His wrath and to make known His power.*

Exodus 5:2 But Pharaoh said, **“Who is the Lord, that I should obey his voice and let Israel go? I do not know the Lord, and moreover, I will not let Israel go.”**

Exodus 9:14 For this time I will send all my plagues on you yourself, and on your servants and your people, so that you may know that there is none like me in all the earth.

Exodus 9:15 **For by now** (much patience) I could have put out my hand and struck you and your people with pestilence, and you would have been cut off from the earth.

Exodus 9:16 **But for this purpose** I have raised you up, **to show you my power, so that my name may be proclaimed in all the earth.**

Exodus 9:17 You are still **exalting yourself** against my people and will not let them go.

Romans 9:18 So **then he has mercy on whomever he wills, and he hardens whomever he wills.**

Romans 9:19 You will say to me then, **“Why does he still find fault? For who can resist his will?”**

*If God decisively and ultimately governs our will and we sin - why does He still judge?*

Romans 9:20 But **who are you, O man, to answer back to God? Will what is molded say to its molder, “Why have you made me like this?”**

Isaiah 29:16 You turn things **upside down!** Shall the potter be regarded as the clay, that the thing made should say of its maker, **“He did not make me”**; or the thing formed say of him who formed it, **“He has no understanding”**?

Romans 9:21 Has the **potter no right over the clay**, to make out of the **same lump one vessel for honorable use and another for dishonorable use?**

Romans 9:22 [What] **if God, (Because He) desiring to show his wrath and to make known his power**, has **endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction,**

Romans 9:23 **in order to make known the riches of his glory for vessels of mercy, which he has prepared beforehand for glory — (then)**

**If God does this, for these reasons, then** no objection can be made. He is totally righteous to do things this way.

**Question:** Why doesn't God save all?

All have sinned.

All sin has to be punished to maintain God's justice and righteousness.

The cross maintains God's justice and righteousness.

Why doesn't the work of Christ apply to all?

*Since God does not save all, is **His purpose in not saving all reasonable and moral?***

**Question:** Is making fully known to the vessels of mercy the riches of His glory a sufficient reason, a righteous reason, to allow for the eternal existence of vessels of wrath?

Isaiah 43:7 everyone who is called by my name, **whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.”**

*The ultimate purpose of the universe is that vessels of mercy would see the full glory of God, which includes wrath, power and (undeserved) mercy.*

**Question:** Is God not being fully known unjust and unloving?

God exalted Pharaoh (unrighteous) in order to crush him. God crushed Jesus (righteous) in order to exalt Him.

Isaiah 53:5 But **he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities;** upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and **with his wounds we are healed.**

Isaiah 53:10a Yet **it was the will (desire) of the Lord to crush him;** he has put him to grief...

1Peter 3:18 **For** Christ also suffered once **for** sins, **the righteous for the unrighteous**, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in **the** flesh but made alive in **the** spirit,

Philippians 2:8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Philippians 2:9 **Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name,**

Philippians 2:10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

Philippians 2:11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Ephesians 1:4 even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love

Ephesians 1:5 he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will,

Ephesians 1:6 **to the praise of his glorious grace**, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.