


# MERCY
# For the Fame of His Name! • Part 2

*Lesson 10*

## "That's Not Fair!"

### 1. The Objection *(v. 14a)*

***"What shall we say then?"*** *(Romans 6:1-2; 7:7; 3:5)*

***"There is no injustice with God, is there?"*** NAS *(Deuteronomy 32:4; 2Chronicles 19:7; Psalms 92:15)*

**God's standard of righteousness is His own revelation of Himself—**
**His own name** (= His character) **and fame** (= His glory)**!**

### 2. The Correction *(v. 14b)* ***"By no means!"***

## Two Reasons Why God Is Not Unjust to Unconditionally Choose Some to Be Saved by Grace through Faith in Christ.

### 1. The First Explanation & Conclusion: Moses & God's Mercy *(vv. 15-16)*

**REASON #1** God always acts for **THE FAME OF HIS NAME**, which is eager to show mercy to the undeserving according to His free grace, not according to human willing or doing.

***"For He says to Moses…"*** *Exodus 32:31-32; 33:11*

➤ The ***clarity*** of the principle supports this conclusion. *(9:15)*

➤ The ***context*** of the OT passage supports this conclusion. (*Exodus 33:18-19; 34:5-7)*

***Exodus 33:18*** Moses said, "Please show me Your glory." ***19*** And he said, "i will make all My goodness pass before you and will proclaim before you My name 'The LORD.' And I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy.

***Exodus 34:5*** The LORD descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD. The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, ***7*** keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, **but** who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation."

One of God's most basic characteristics is **HIS FREEDOM** to **SHOW MERCY** on **WHOMEVER HE CHOOSES** and **HE CHOOSES TO DO SO TO MULTITUDES OF UNDESERVING SINNERS!**

➤ The ***conclusion*** of Paul supports this conclusion. *(9:16)*

***What is the "it"?!***

Is it ***showing mercy*** in general ***or*** is it ***salvation*** in general?

God choosing different individuals or nations ***to serve*** the outworking of His salvation plan
***or***
God choosing individual Jews and Gentiles, as well as the nation of Israel, ***to be saved*** to fulfill His salvation promises.

***What is God's purpose in election based on?***

1) It is ***not*** based on the person who is constantly **WILLING** or **RUNNING**.

2) It ***is*** based on God, who is continually showing mercy to the **UNDESERVING**!

## 2. The Second Explanation & Conclusion: Pharaoh & God's Hardening *(vv. 17-18)*

**REASON #2** God always acts for the fame of His name, even His judgment of deserving sinners is to make known to all peoples the saving power of His salvation through judgment!

***"For the Scripture says to Pharaoh…"***

➤ The ***clarity*** of the purpose supports this conclusion. *(9:17; Exodus 9:16)*

> ***Exodus 9:12*** But the LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh, and he did not listen to them, as the LORD had spoken to Moses.
> ***13*** Then the LORD said to Moses, "Rise up early in the morning and present yourself before Pharaoh and say to him, 'Thus says the LORD, the God of the Hebrews, "Let my people go, that they may serve me. ***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. ***15*** For by now 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. ***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.** ***17*** You are still exalting yourself against my people and will not let them go.

1) That I might show my **POWER** in you. *Romans 1:16, 20*

2) That my name might be **PROCLAIMED** in all the earth. *Exodus 34:6-7*

➤ The ***context*** of the passage supports this conclusion. *(Exodus 1—14; see especially 7:3-5; 10:1-2; 11:9; 14:4, 17)*

**Hard Questions about Pharaoh's Hard Heart**

1) Did God harden Pharaoh's heart or did Pharaoh harden His own heart? *(Exodus 9:34-10:1)*

2) Who hardened Pharaoh's heart first—God or Pharaoh? *(Exodus 3:19-22; 4:21-23; 7:1-5, 13)*

➤ The ***conclusion*** of Paul supports this conclusion. *(9:18; 11:7)*

**Is God Unjust to Unconditionally Choose Some to Be Saved by Grace through Faith in Christ?**
**NO WAY!** Paul's way of ***defending God's justice*** is ***to proclaim His mercy!***

**Unconditional election is consistent with God's glorious character because He is eager to show mercy to whomever He freely chooses for the fame of His name!**

**God always acts for the fame of His name, which is not only eager to show mercy to the undeserving but even in judging the deserving His purpose is to proclaim His name to all peoples!**

God's election is ***unconditional*** because it is ***undeserving*** and ***based solely*** on the fame of His name!

## The Conclusions Are Straightforward but Raise Another Objection

**Question:** Is God unfair in choosing unconditionally? *(9:14)*

**Answer:** ***NO!*** *Unconditional election* ***reflects*** *the perfection of God's character in all of its fullness,* ***especially the glory of His mercy****, which is shown to* ***undeserving sinners*** *for the fame of His Name.* ***Even His judgment of deserving sinners*** *is to make known to all peoples the saving power of His salvation through judgment!*

You will say to me then, **"Why does [God] still find fault? For who can resist His will?"** *(9:19)*