

FREEDOM!
God's Right to Do What He Chooses • Part 2
Lesson 12

The Crucial Question that Romans 9-11 Answers: *Has God's Word—His saving promises to Israel—failed, in light of the fact that so many Jews have rejected Christ and are doomed to eternal punishment?*

How Does the Answer Unfold?

Q1 Has God's Word failed? *(9:6)* *Objection:* ***FAILURE?!***
Answer: *NO! God's promise of salvation is* ***rooted*** *in God's sovereign, unconditional choice. (9:6-13)*

Q2 Is God unfair in choosing unconditionally? *(9:14)* *Objection:* ***FAIRNESS?!***
Answer: *NO! Unconditional election* ***reflects*** *the perfection of God's character in all of its fullness. (9:14-18)*

Q3 Is God unreasonable to hold us accountable for our choices, if no one resists His will? *(9:19)* *Objection:* ***FATALISM?!***

REMEMBER, the questions are being answered from a **GOD**-centered perspective and not a man-centered one!

God Is Free to Do as He Chooses with His Rebellious Creation in Keeping with His Revealed Character

"So then He has mercy on whomever He wills, and He hardens whomever He wills." Romans 9:18

1. The Natural Objection (v. 19)

"Well then, you might say, "Why does God blame people for not responding? Haven't they simply done what he makes them do?" [NLT]

This is a ***natural, antagonistic, fatalistic,*** *and* ***accurate*** *objection:*

- God does hold ***sinners accountable*** for their choices to sin and rebel. *Rom 1:18-20; 3:9-18, 23; Ex 1:8-22; 5:1-2; 7:33; 8:1-4, 20-23; 9:1-5, 13-14, 34; 10:3-11; 11:4-8; 14:1-3, 5-7*
- God is still sovereign over our choices so that ***no one ultimately resists*** His will. *Psalm 103:19; 115:3, 135:6; Isaiah 46:10; Daniel 4:35; Proverbs 16:33; 19:21*

2. The Emotional Confrontation (vv. 20-23)

"But who are you, O man, to answer back to God?"

This is a ***very emotional***, ***direct***, ***clear***, *and* ***effective*** *confrontation.*

- 1st Question ***reminds us*** who we are: ***Puny people and not the almighty god***! *(9:20a)*
- 2nd Question ***puts us*** in our place: ***Creatures and not the Creator***! *(9:20b)*
- 3rd Question ***shows us*** God's right to fulfill His purposes in our lives: ***Clay pots and not the Potter***! *(9:21)*
- 4th Question ***overwhelms us*** with the ***mystery*** of ***His majestic mission*** of ***mercy***! *(9:22-23)*

> ***22*** What ***IF*** God, desiring to show his wrath and to make known his power, has endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction,
> ***23*** in order to make known the riches of his glory for vessels of mercy, which he has prepared beforehand for glory—
> [***THEN*** would we have a right to answer back to God?]
> ***24*** —even us whom He has called, not from the Jews only but also from the Gentiles?

God's Sovereign Purposes for Freely Doing What He Chooses

- Minor Purpose: To put on display His **LONGSUFFERING WRATH** *(v. 22)*

Three Reasons Why God Delays His Wrath and Is Longsuffering with Sinners:

1) To display & declare His sovereign **POWER** to judge deserving sinners. *(9:17, 22)*

2) To display & declare His sovereign **MERCY** to save undeserving sinners. *(9:23; 2:4; 1Peter 3:20; 2Peter 3:9, 14-16; 1Tim 1:16)*

3) To display & declare the fame of His sovereign **NAME** to all peoples. *(9:17; 1Peter 2:9-10)*

➤ Major Purpose: To proclaim His **GLORIOUS MERCY** *(v. 23)*

"IN ORDER to make known…"

"the riches of His glory…" Compare Ephesians 2:1-10

"for vessels of mercy…" Compare Titus 3:3-7

"which He has prepared beforehand for glory—" Compare Ephesians 1:3-14

3. The Personal Application (v. 24)

"even us whom he has called, not from the Jews only but also from the Gentiles?"

Compare Romans 8:28-30; Ephesians 1:11-14

4. The Scriptural Confirmation (vv. 25-29)

➤ ***Hosea 2:23*** proves ***God is free*** to choose & call out **GENTILES** in the Church Age. *(vv. 25-26; 1 Peter 2:9-10)*

➤ ***Isaiah 10:22-23; 1:9*** proves ***God's Word has not failed*** in choosing & calling out only a **JEWISH** remnant in the Church Age. *(v. 27-29)*

Is God Unreasonable to Hold Sinners Accountable Even Though No One Resists His Will?

NO! *Who are we to question God's sovereign **right** to accomplish His own purposes as our Creator and Redeemer? Unconditional election **reveals** the riches of God's glorious mercy against the backdrop of His longsuffering wrath.*

Our Response?

1) **Be SAVED TODAY!** *God is eager to show His saving mercy to anyone who turns from his or her sins to trust His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ! Every sinner like us deserves immediate judgment, but God is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but all come to repentance.*

2) **Be THANKFUL!** *Apart from God's sovereign grace and the riches of His mercy, no one would be saved—including you and me! God is just so not all will be saved, but God is merciful so many will be saved!*

3) **Be HUMBLE!** *We did not deserve for Him to choose us— WE ARE THE UNDESERVING—but He freely chose to shower His mercy on the undeserving like you and me! There is nothing **about** you or **in** you that is deserving of God's electing love!*

4) **Be BOLD!** *Share the gospel of Christ will all people for it is God's very nature to eagerly show His mercy to thousands who in no way deserve it! PEOPLE JUST LIKE US, the UNDESERVING!*

Next Time: Where Does Our Faith Come In?