

“Even Us!”
Romans 9:14-24
January 30, 2022

I. Review – God’s Justice and Mercy Upon Fallen Humanity (Rom. 9:14-16)

- A. God chooses to have salvation mercy upon a particular segment of humanity.
- B. God also justly allows others to remain in their own sinful hostility.
- C. God’s justice (judgment) is not vindictive or malicious.

Lamentations 3:33 - For He does not afflict from His heart or grieve the children of men.

Ezekiel 33:11 - “Say to them, ‘As I live!’ declares the Lord God, ‘I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn back, turn back from your evil ways! Why then will you die, O house of Israel?’”

Psalms 103:8 - The Lord is compassionate and gracious, Slow to anger and abounding in lovingkindness.

II. Pharaoh – An Example of Someone from Whom God Withheld Mercy (Rom. 9:17-18)

- A. God purposed to (further) harden Pharaoh’s (already hard) heart.

Exodus 4:21 - The Lord said to Moses, “When you go back to Egypt see that you perform before Pharaoh all the wonders which I have put in your power; but I will harden his heart so that he will not let the people go.”

- B. This was to make God’s absolute power over Pharaoh, the Egyptians, and Israel known through the continuing plagues.

III. Inappropriate Response – “Why does God still find fault? Who resists His will?” (Rom. 9:19-21)

- A. That is not the humble inquiry of a confused but faithful believer.
- B. It is the arrogant accusation of a fallen rebel trying to put God in the judgment seat.
- C. Paul makes clear that such a smug retort is worthy of nothing but rebuke.

IV. Honest Question – Why does God inflict more judgment upon a sinner by exalting (or blessing) them for a time? (Rom. 9:22-24)

Romans 9:22–24 (NIV 1984) - 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?*

- A. One reason is so that the objects of God's mercy [the elect] can see His glorious power over His smug enemies.
- B. Another reason is so that believers [even us] can marvel at the undeserved mercy shown to them that isn't gifted to everyone.