**OUR MERCIFUL GOD!** **Text:** Romans 9:14-33 **Date:** 3/5/17 **Service:** Sunday AM

The mercy of God is revealed if just **one** sinner goes to heaven. God is gracious and merciful if He saves just **one** undeserving sinner. When we think of salvation, we must begin with the mercy and grace of God! There would be no salvation if God were not gracious and merciful! We must conclude that if just **one** sinner is granted forgiveness and enters the presence of the Lord… **GOD IS GREAT IN HIS MERCY AND SALVATION!**

**Let’s consider this question:** Is there anyone in this service today that deserves to be forgiven of their sins and to live forever in the presence of God? **I THINK NOT!!!** Because God is merciful, that does not mean that we deserve the forgiveness of sins and thus deserve to enter the presence of God! ***NO ONE DESERVES HEAVEN!******I marvel not that many are saved, but that any are saved!*** Let the truth of **Ephesians 2:8-9** sink in,*For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.*

**John 8:39-44 says,** *They (The Jews) answered and said unto Him,* ***Abraham is our father****.* ***Jesus saith unto them,*** *If ye were Abraham's children, ye would do the works of Abraham. 40 But now ye seek to kill Me, a man that hath told you the truth, which I have heard of God: this did not Abraham. 41 Ye do the deeds of your father. Then said they to Him, We be not born of fornication; we have one Father, even God. 42 Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of Myself, but He sent Me. 43 Why do ye not understand My speech? Even because ye cannot hear My word. 44 Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.*

**Steven Kreloff,** a converted Jewish pastor writes, “Like so many people today those religious leaders thought that their physical birth secured their salvation. Personal salvation is an individual matter. A Gentile does not become a Christian by being born into a Christian family any more than a Jewish person becomes a recipient of God’s promises to Israel by being born into a Jewish family.”

Paul teaches this in **Romans 2:28-29** For he is not a Jew, which is one ***outwardly*;** neither *is that* circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: 29 But he *is* a Jew, which is one ***inwardly*;** *and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God.*

**POINT: GOD IS FOREVER JUST!!!**

1. **FIRST, GOD IS JUST IN EXTENDING MERCY – 9:14-18**
* **Romans 9:14-18** *What shall we say then? Is there unrighteousness with God?* God forbid. 15 For He saith to **Moses**, I will have *mercy* on whom I will have *mercy*, and I will have *compassion* on whom I will have *compassion.* 16 So then *it is* not of him that *willeth*, nor of him that *runneth*, *but of God that sheweth mercy*. 17 For the Scripture saith unto **Pharaoh**, Even for this same purpose have I raised thee up, that I might shew **My power** in thee, and that **My name** might be declared throughout all the earth. 18 Therefore hath **He** mercy on whom **He** will *have mercy*, and whom **He** will **He** hardeneth.

**Does election destroy God’s righteousness?**

* **9:14** ~ Notice the two questions found in 9:14.
* **Psalm 92:15** … the LORD *is* upright: *He is* my rock, and *there is* no unrighteousness in Him.
* Paul presents **TWO EXAMPLES** of God’s mercy…
* **9:15** ~ **Moses**… God spared all but 3,000! God spared Israel! **See:** Exodus 33:18-19
* **9:16** ~ Salvation does not come by the exercise of the human will or to those who exert human effort!
* **9:17** ~ **Pharaoh**… his hardness birthed the Passover!

**There are at least 15 references to the hardening of Pharaoh’s heart!**

* **Steven Kreloff** describes the situation in these terms, “God did not violate Pharaoh’s will and force him to do something he never wanted to do.”

**Romans 1:24 Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts…**

* **9:18** ~ God extends mercy that we do not deserve!
* **POINT: God never hardens a soft heart! ALSO, He will let a hard heart harden! WRATH OF ABANDONMENT!**
* **FIRST, GOD IS JUST IN EXTENDING MERCY – 9:14-18**
1. **SECONDLY, GOD IS JUST IN HOLDING SINNERS ACCOUNTABLE – 9:19-29**
* **Romans 9:19-24** Thou wilt say then unto Me, Why doth He yet find fault? For who hath resisted His will?
* **Romans 9:19 (NLT Paraphrase)** Well then, you might say, “Why does God blame people for not responding? Haven’t they simply done what He makes them do?”
* **Romans 9:20** Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to Him that formed *it*, Why hast thou made me thus? 21 Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour? 22 *What* if God, willing to shew *His* wrath, and to make His power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction: 23 And that He might make known the riches of His glory on the vessels of mercy, which He had afore prepared unto glory, 24 Even us, whom He hath called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles?
* **9:19-20** ~ **QUESTION:** Cannot the Creator do what He wants with that which He has made? *Kim Riddlebarger*
* **Man argues… Since God is sovereign, man is not responsible for his sins… God is sovereign over all!**
* **POINT:** God is under no obligation whatsoever to be merciful to sinful rebels! *Kim Riddlebarger*
* **Now let’s read** **Romans 9:25-29** As He saith also in **Osee,** I will call them My people, which were not My people; and her beloved, which was not beloved. 26 And it shall come to pass, *that* in the place where it was said unto them, Ye *are* not My people; there shall they be called the children of the Living God. 27 **Esaias** also crieth concerning Israel, Though the number of the children of Israel be as the sand of the sea, *a remnant shall be saved*: 28 For He will finish the work, and cut *it* short in righteousness: because a short work will the Lord make upon the earth. 29 And as **Esaias** said before, Except the Lord of Sabaoth had *left us a seed/remnant*, we had been as Sodoma, and been made like unto Gomorrha.
* **9:25-26** ~ Paul uses **Hosea… GENTILES will come!**
* **9:27-29** ~ Paul uses **Isaiah… ISRAEL will come!**
* **It has been said, “God is not saving a race; He is saving a remnant.”**
* **TRUTH:** God is not accountable to man; man is accountable to God!
* **POINT:** God is sovereign and we **(I)** are **(am)** responsible!
* It is thus safe to conclude that… ***God is sovereign, and we are therefore subject to His authority!***
* **Proverbs 16:4 says,** The LORD hath made all *things* for Himself: yea, even the wicked for the day of evil.
* **FIRST, GOD IS JUST IN EXTENDING MERCY – 9:14-18**
* **SECONDLY, GOD IS JUST IN HOLDING SINNERS ACCOUNTABLE – 9:19-29**
1. **THIRDLY, GOD IS SOVEREIGN IN SAVING SINNERS – 9:30-33**
* **Romans 9:30-33** What shall we say then? (WHAT ARE WE TO CONCLUDE?) That the **Gentiles**, which followed *not* after righteousness, have attained to righteousness, even the righteousness which is of **faith**. 31 **BUT Israel**, which followed after the Law of righteousness, hath not attained to the Law of righteousness. 32 Wherefore? *Because* *they sought it* not by faith, but as it were by the **works** of the Law. For they stumbled at that Stumblingstone (JESUS); 33 As it is written, Behold, I lay in Sion a Stumblingstone (JESUS) and Rock of Offence (JESUS): and whosoever believeth on Him shall not be ashamed.
* **9:30** ~ The Gentiles came *by faith*!
* **9:31-32A** ~ The Jews came *by works*!
* **9:32B-33** ~ **Alan Carr** explains, “The Jews saw themselves as better than Jesus… they stumbled over the cross.”
* **TRUTH: God declares the Gentiles righteous and the Jews unrighteous!**
* **POINT:** Some people come to God by faith and are declared righteous before Him. Others come to God by works and are yet in their sins!!!
* **KEY:** If you “follow after” Jesus by faith, you will be saved! On the other hand, If you “follow after” works, you will be lost!
* **FIRST, GOD IS JUST IN EXTENDING MERCY – 9:14-18**
* **SECONDLY, GOD IS JUST IN HOLDING SINNERS ACCOUNTABLE – 9:19-29**
* **THIRDLY, GOD IS SOVEREIGN IN SAVING SINNERS – 9:30-33**

**LESSONS WE LEARN FROM ROMANS 9…**

1. Keep sharing the Gospel.
2. Continue watering the seed of the Gospel.
3. Keep making disciples as Jesus commanded us.

**Charles Spurgeon said,** “If God had painted a stripe down the back of the elect, I’d spend my days walking up and down the streets of London lifting up shirttails. But because He said, “Whosoever will may come,” I preach the Gospel to everyone. And I rely on Him to lead those to faith who are His.”