

“The Judge Of All The Earth”
Romans 9:14-18

Introduction:

1. When I Was Little:
 - I Remember There Were Times:
 - When My Older Brother & My Older Sister:
 - Got To Do Some Things - And:
 - Go To Some Places:
 - That I Was Not Allowed To:
 - Because - I Was “Too Young” - My Parents Would Say!
 - Well - I Had An Answer To That:
 - As You Probably Did As Well!
 - I Would Look At Them:
 - And Say As Clearly As I Could:
 - **“That’s Not Fair!”**
2. As A Child:
 - I Wanted To Be Treated **Fairly!**
 - Or - At Least - According To:
 - My Own Definition & Understanding:
 - Of Fairness!
 - Well - Things Don’t Change Much:
 - As You Get Older, Do They?
 - When You Are A Student:
 - In High School Or In College:
 - And You Work So Hard:
 - To Learn & To Study:
 - But Then, Another Student:
 - Who Doesn’t Seem To Put In:
 - Half The Effort You Do:
 - Gets A Better Grade!
 - And - You Think To Yourself:
 - “That’s Not Fair!”
 - Or - What About When You Are At Work:
 - And You Give It Your Best!
 - You Even Try To Do Everything:
 - “As Unto The Lord!”
 - But Then, A Coworker:
 - Who Hasn’t Been There:
 - As Long As You Have - And:
 - Who Doesn’t Seem To Be:
 - As Invested As You Have Been:
 - Gets The Promotion Or A Raise!
 - And - You Instinctively Think - Or Even Say:
 - “That’s Not Fair!”
3. Well - As We Turn Back In Our Bibles:
 - To Romans 9 - I Think That Is The Same Response:
 - That The Apostle Paul Is Dealing With:
 - In The Verses We Come To This Morning!
 - Because - When Confronted - As We Are:
 - In Verses 9:6-13 - With The Truth:
 - That God Chooses Some Instead Of Others:
 - According To 9:11 - “That the purpose of God according to election might stand!”
 - The Most Natural, Human Response Is:
 - **“That’s Not Fair!”** - Or Even:
 - **“God’s Not Just!”**
 - After All - Just Think About:
 - Who God Chose:

- To Make & To Fulfill:
 - His Promises To!
- According To 9:10-13:
 - God Chose Jacob:
 - Instead Of His Brother:
 - Esau!
 - Even Though:
 - They Had The Same Father, The Same Mother, And Were Born Twins!
 - But Why?
 - Was That Fair?
 - Was God Just?
- According To 9:7-9:
 - God Chose Isaac:
 - Instead Of His Half-Brother:
 - Ishmael!
 - Even Though:
 - They Were Both Sons Of Abraham:
 - God's Special Servant!
 - But Only Isaac:
 - Was To Be The Child Of The Promise!
 - But Why?
 - Was That Fair?
 - Was God Just?
- But - What About Abraham Himself!
 - God Chose Abraham:
 - Instead Of The World:
 - To Bless & To Bring About:
 - His Blessing To:
 - The World!
 - But Why?
 - What Was Different About Abraham Than Anyone Else?
 - Was That Fair?
 - Was God Just?

4. Well - This Is The Question & Objection:

- That Paul Anticipates:
 - When We Come To 9:14-18 - Where He Writes:
 - "What Shall We Say Then?"
 - That Is - How Might We Respond:
 - To God's Sovereign Choices:
 - Of Abraham, Isaac & Jacob?
 - "Is There Unrighteousness With God?"
 - He Means - Is God Un-Fair:
 - In The Choices He Makes?
 - Or - Is God Un-True:
 - To His Own Nature:
 - By Choosing Some & Rejecting Others?
- Well - Paul Immediately:
 - And Firmly - Puts A Stop:
 - To That Kind Of Thinking:
 - When He Says - "God Forbid!"
 - In The Strongest Possible Way:
 - Paul Says - NO!
 - God Is *Not*:
 - *Un*-Fair!
 - God Is *Not*:
 - *Un*-True!
 - God Can *Never* Be:
 - *Un*righteous!

- Even As We Are Told:
 - In Deuteronomy 32:4 - "He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is He!"
 - God Is *Always* True:
 - *Always* Right - And:
 - *Always* Just!

- And That Includes:
 - *All* Of His Choices!
 - And - In 9:15-18 - Paul Explains How This Can Be:
 - "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. / So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy. / 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. / Therefore hath he mercy on whom he will have mercy, and whom he will he hardeneth!"

5. We Come This Morning:

- To One Of Those Things In The Teachings Of The Apostle Paul:
 - That Even Peter Describes:
 - In 2 Peter 3:16 - As - "Hard To Be Understood!"
 - But - Even Though:
 - It May Be A *Difficult* Truth:
 - It Is Still *The* Truth!
 - And The *Truth Is*:
 - God Has Both:
 - The *Right* & The *Rule*:
 - To *Chose* - Whomever He Pleases:
 - And - To *Reject* - Whomever He Pleases!
 - After All - As Abraham Described God:
 - Back In Genesis 18:25:
 - He *Is* - And Will *Always* Be:
 - "The Judge Of All The Earth!"
 - And He Will *Always*:
 - "*Do Right!*"
 - And So - Instead Of:
 - Appealing To Our Human Reason & Logic:
 - In These Verses, Paul Appeals Directly:
 - To God's Own Words!
 - Because - If Its Something:
 - We Cannot Comprehend With Our Minds!
 - It Is Something That:
 - We Must Accept By Faith!

* And So - In 9:15-16 - Paul Proves From Scripture That:

1. *God Has The Right To Choose!*

- And To *Help* Whoever He Wants To *Help!*
 - And In 9:15 - Paul Reminds Us Of:
 - God's Conversation With Moses:
 - Back In Exodus 33:19:
 - "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!"
 - When God Said This To Moses:
 - It Was Not Long After:
 - The Golden Calf Incident - When The Children Of Israel:
 - Sinned A Great Sin Against The Lord By Making And Worshiping The Golden Calf!
 - Now - As The "Judge Of All The Earth" - And:
 - As *Their* Judge:

- Justice Would Have Been Served:
 - If He Punished & Destroyed:
 - Them *All!*
 - He Had The **Right** To Do So:
 - Because They Were All Guilty Of Idolatry:
 - Except For The Sons Of Levi!
- But Also - As Judge:
 - He Could Show Mercy:
 - Which He Did!
 - And Only 3,000 Men Were Killed:
 - By The Sword - And:
 - The Rest Were Spared!
- And So - As Moses Was Grieving:
 - Over The Sin Of His People:
 - He Asked The Lord - "I beseech thee, shew me thy glory! / And he said, I will make all my goodness pass before thee, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before thee; and will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will shew mercy on whom I will shew mercy!"
 - And With These Words We Have:
- **The Revelation Of His Mercy!**
 - God *Is* A Merciful God - And:
 - His Mercy Is **Full!**
 - Back In Exodus - When The Lord Did Pass By Moses:
 - He "Proclaimed" - That He Is - "The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth!"
 - And - Listen To How David Describes The Fulness Of God's Mercy:
 - In Psalm 103:10-14 - "He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. / For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him. / As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us. / Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear him. / For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust!"
 - God's Mercy Is Full!
 - And Even More:
- His Mercy Is Fervent!
 - There May Not Be Much More Than A Shade Of Difference:
 - Between His Mercy & His Compassion:
 - But - If There Is:
 - The Compassion Of God:
 - Is The Heart-Felt Motive:
 - For His Mercy - While:
 - The Mercy Of God:
 - Refers To The Manifestation:
 - Of His Mercy!
 - But - Both Words Are Joined Together:
 - To Emphasize Just How:
 - Deep & Wide:
 - His Mercy Goes!
 - God's Mercy Is Full & It Is Fervent!
 - But - The Primary Point God Is Making To Moses Is That:
- His Mercy Is Free!
 - As The "Judge Of All The Earth" - God:
 - Is Entirely Free In His Choice:
 - Whether To Grant His Mercy Or To Withhold His Mercy!
 - **IE:** Like A President Showing Mercy By Offering A Pardon Or A Commutation Of A Sentence! Entirely Free To Do So! But If Some Are Pardoned & Others Are Not - Justice Is Still Served! Even So:
 - Mercy To God:
 - Is A "Get To" Not A "Have To!"
 - And - Since God Is No "Respecter Of Persons":

- God Does Not Base His Choice:
 - On Anything That A Person Is Or Does!
 - Not On One's Personality, Possessions, Or Power!
- God Freely Chooses To Grant Mercy:
 - Based On His Own Purpose!
- But - Isn't This The Nature:
 - Of Mercy & Grace To Begin With?
 - They Are Entirely:
 - Undeserved & Unearned!
- God's Mercy Is:
 - Full & Fervent:
 - But Entirely Free:
 - And According To His Choice!
- Even As The Puritan Stephen Charnock Once Wrote:
 - God "Is Absolutely Free To Dispense His Goodness In What Methods And Measures He Pleaseth, According To The Free Determinations Of His Own Will, Guided By The Wisdom Of His Mind, And Regulated By The Holiness Of His Nature!"
 - So - As "The Judge Of All The Earth":
 - God Is Both Just And Merciful!
 - And This Truth Leads Paul, In 9:16, To Remind Us Of:
- **The Reason For His Mercy!**
 - 9:16 - "So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy!"
 - So - When God Chooses To Show Mercy:
 - To Undeserving Sinners Like Us:
 - It Has Nothing To Do With:
- Our Own Pleas – For His Mercy!
 - As Paul Describes It:
 - "It Is Not Of Him That Willeth!"
 - So - Just Because A Person Needs God's Mercy & Desires God's Mercy:
 - Does Not Mean That God Is Compelled To Show Him Mercy!
 - God's Mercy Is Not:
 - **Reactive** To Man - It Is:
 - **Proactive!**
 - After All - What Does Philippians 2:13 Say Even About Our Own Wills?
 - "For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of [his] good pleasure!"
 - So - God Does Not Base His Mercy:
 - On The Willingness Of The Person:
 - To Receive It!
 - It Also As Nothing To Do With:
- Our Own Pursuit – Of His Mercy!
 - Again - 9:16 - "Nor Of Him That Runneth!"
 - Like Many - In The Gospels - Who Ran To Jesus:
 - To Get His Help:
 - Because Of Their Problems:
 - And Would Cry Out To Him:
 - Like Blind Bartimaeus - "Jesus, Thou Son Of David, Have Mercy On Me!"
 - But - God Doesn't Even Grant His Mercy:
 - Based On This!
 - Now - This Does **Not** Mean That:
 - God Does **Not** Hear:
 - The Pleas Of Those:
 - Who Are Willing:
 - Because He **Does Hear!**
 - Or That - God Does **Not** See:
 - The Pursuit Of Those:
 - Who Are Running:
 - Because He **Does See!**
 - But - Any **Plea For Or Pursuit Of:**

- God's Mercy - Is In **Response**:
 - To God's Mercy!
 - Because It Is Only Based On:
- God's Own Pleasure!
 - It Is "Of God That Sheweth Mercy!"
 - So - Why Does God Choose:
 - To Show Mercy To Some - And:
 - Not To Others?
 - Because He Wants To!
 - It Is His Divine Prerogative!
 - **IE**: Don't You Do The Same Thing - When Someone Comes To You & Asks You For Help? You Can Chose To Help Or Not To Help! You Can Chose How Much To Help Or How Little To Help!
- So - Its Not A Matter Of God:
 - Being Just **Or** Merciful - Because:
 - He Is **Both** Just **And** Merciful!
 - And - If God Chose To Show Absolutely No Mercy At All:
 - He Would Still Be Just!
 - Because We All Deserve To Be "Accursed From Christ" Because Of Our Sin! (See Chapter 3)
- So - As The "Judge Of All The Earth":
 - God Has The Right:
 - To Show Mercy To:
 - Whomsoever He Will!
 - And This Is Because:
 - His Mercy Goes Beyond His Justice!
 - So - God Had The Right:
 - To Chose:
 - Jacob & Not Esau!
 - Isaac & Not Ishmael!
 - Abraham & Not The World!
 - And Even You!
 - But - What About:
 - Esau & Ishmael & The Rest Of The World?
 - Well - In 9:17-18 - We See Also That:

2. **God Has The Rule To Choose!**

- Even To **Harden** Whoever He Chooses To **Harden**!
 - Because - In 9:17 - Paul Reminds Us Of:
 - God's Conversation With Pharaoh:
 - Back In Exodus 9:16:
 - "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!"
 - Note That Paul Uses "Scripture" As:
 - The Equivalent For "God!"
 - Because When "Scripture" Speaks, God Speaks! And We Need To Listen!
 - Well - When God Said This To Pharaoh:
 - It Was In The Midst Of:
 - The Ten Plagues That God Was Sending:
 - Through Moses - Upon Egypt:
 - To Get Pharaoh To "Let My People Go!"
 - So - With Six Plagues Past:
 - And With Four More To Go:
 - It Is Clear That Pharaoh Had Already Rejected God's Word:
 - And Refused To Listen To His Message & His Messenger!
 - Now - As The "Judge Of All The Earth" - And:
 - As **Pharaoh's** Judge:

- Justice Would Have Been Served:
 - If He Destroyed Him & His People:
 - Immediately & Completely!
 - He Had The **Rule** To Do So:
 - Because They Were All Guilty Of Disobedience!
- But Also - As Judge:
 - He Could Have Shown Mercy To Pharaoh:
 - Which He Chose **Not** To Do!
 - Instead - Through These Words - He Revealed To Pharaoh:
- **The Record Of His Judgment!**
 - God Told Pharaoh That:
 - “For This Same Purpose Have I Raised Thee Up!”
 - This Means That:
 - God Brought Him On The Scene:
 - And Onto The Stage Of History - At That Time:
 - For His Own Purpose!
 - And - I Think This Means:
 - That *Everything* That God Did To Bring Pharaoh:
 - To Be Where He Was At That Time:
 - Is Included!
 - To “Raise Him Up” - God Gave Him:
 - His Life!
 - His Family!
 - His Country!
 - And - Why Did God Do This With Pharaoh?
 - First:
 - To Prove His Powerful Nature!
 - 9:17 - “That I Might Shew My Power In Thee!”
 - And - Isn’t This What God Did?
 - In Dramatic Fashion - God Used Pharaoh:
 - To Show His Omnipotence:
 - Not Just To Egypt Or To Israel, But To The World!
 - Remember When:
 - The Children Of Israel Finally Made It To The Promised Land?
 - And - When The Spies Went To Jericho:
 - It Was Rahab Who Said - Joshua 2:10 - “We have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red sea for you, when ye came out of Egypt!”
 - And That Pharaoh:
 - Was The Means To:
 - God’s Righteous End!
 - To Prove His Powerful Nature:
 - As Well As:
 - To Publish His Perfect Name!
 - 9:17b - “And That My Name Might Be Declared Throughout All The Earth!”
 - This Is Not Referring To:
 - Just The Sound Of His Name - But:
 - To The Meaning Of His Name!
 - As The One, True & Living God!
 - And It Has!
 - Even Though There Are Many Still Who Have Not Heard Of This:
 - Yet It Has Spread To & In “All The Earth!”
 - And All Of This Reveals:
 - The Truth About God!
 - He Really Is The God & “Judge Of All The Earth!”
 - And - He Does Not Answer To Man! To You!
 - Rather - Man Must Answer To God!
 - And - God Can Do Whatever He Chooses To Do:
 - With Us!

- But - I Think *Even This*:
 - Shows To Us His Grace & Mercy!
 - Because - God Did Not Have To:
 - Prove His Powerful Nature Or Publish His Perfect Name!
 - But - He *Chose* To!
 - And - He Chose Pharaoh To Do So!
 - And He Was Entirely Just:
 - In Doing So!
- And This Truth Leads Paul:
 - In 9:18 - To Remind Us Of:
- **The Reason For God's Judgment!**
 - According To This Verse:
 - It All Comes Down:
 - To **God's Own Will!**
 - 9:18 - "Therefore hath he mercy on whom **he will** have mercy, and whom **he will** he hardeneth!"
 - And - In Either Case:
 - God Is Entirely Just!
 - Because - 3:23 - "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God!"
 - And So - We **All**:
 - Deserve God's Punishment!
 - And So - When God Chooses:
 - To Harden Sinners:
 - In Their Sins - What Is That:
 - But The Immediate Execution:
 - Of His Just Judgment:
 - For Their Sins!
 - **IE**: A Judge Can Hold Off Judgment & Sentencing For A Time - An Act Of Mercy - To Get Affairs In Order! But - He Doesn't Have To!
 - When God Hardens The Heart Of A Sinner:
 - It Means That God Does Not Wait:
 - Until That Sinner Dies - Instead:
 - He Begins His Judgment:
 - While That Sinner Still Lives!
 - In The Book Of Exodus:
 - The Hardening Of Pharaoh's Heart:
 - Is Referred To 14 Times!
 - And It Describes An Increasing Insensitivity To God & His Will!
 - **IE**: Like A Callous!
 - And Though - A Few Times:
 - Pharaoh Is Said To Be The One:
 - Who Hardened His Own Heart!
 - Most Of The Time:
 - God Is Said To Be The One:
 - Who Hardened His Heart!
 - So - The Hardening Of Pharaoh's Heart:
 - Had Both A Human & A Divine Element!
 - But - It Was Ultimately God:
 - Who Initiated That Hardening Process!
 - And - He Did So:
 - According To His Own Will:
 - And For His Own Purpose!
 - And - That Was & Still Is:
 - Entirely Just & Right:
 - On God's Part!
 - Because It Was The Consequence Of Pharaoh's Own Sin!
 - So - God Has The Rule:
 - As The "Judge Of All The Earth":

- To Show Mercy:
 - To Whosoever He Wills! And Even:
- To Harden:
 - Whosoever He Wills!
 - And - Not Just Who:
 - But When!
- And - In Both Cases:
 - God Is Absolutely Just!
- You See:
 - A Truly Innocent Person:
 - Needs No Mercy / Needs No Help! And:
 - A Truly Innocent Person:
 - Cannot Be Judged / Will Not Be Hardened!
 - But - 3:10-12 - "There is none righteous, no, not one: / There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. / They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one!"
 - **IE:** Noone Lives Before God In A Spiritual Switzerland! Noone Of Us Lives In A Morally Neutral Territory!

Conclusion:

1. So - How Can We Respond:
 - To This Difficult Truth?
2. First:
 - Do Not Forget:
 - The Tender Mercies Of God!
 - Even As Nehemiah Did:
 - In Nehemiah 9:17 - "But thou art a God ready to pardon, gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness!"
 - Even Though:
 - God's Mercy Does Not Depend On:
 - Your Own Perceived Need For His Mercy:
 - Yet - If You **Can:**
 - Plea For!
 - And - If You **Can:**
 - Pursuit After It!
 - **Do!**
 - Because - That Is Evidence:
 - That God Is Showing His Mercy To You:
 - At This Very Moment!
 - So - Cry Out For More Of His Mercy!
 - Even As The Publican In:
 - Luke 18:13 - "God be merciful to me a sinner!"
 - And - As We Find:
 - In Isaiah 55:7 - "Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon!"
3. But Then - Second:
 - Do Not Harden Yourself:
 - To The Things Of God!
 - Instead - Respond To Them!
 - Respond To Him!
 - Even "While It Is Called Today!"
 - Because - Who Knows:
 - When God Will Remove:
 - His Grace & His Restraints:
 - To Harden You More:
 - Even To The Point:
 - Of No Repentance & Of No Return!
 - "Harden Not Your Heart!"

4. Instead:
- Remember & Respond To:
- God - Because He Ever Remains:
- "The Judge Of All The Earth!"
- And - He Remains:
- My Judge & Your Judge!
- And - He Is Always Just!
- But He Is Also Merciful!
- So - Receive & Respond To His Mercy:
- Even Now!

- * Do You Recognize In Your Own Heart That - God Is Your Judge!
- * Have You Responded To His Mercy?
- * Are You Hardening Your Own Heart?

***Grace Baptist Church
Stephen Elmer, Pastor
4245 North 200 West
Greenfield, Indiana 46140
317-326-2362
www.sermonaudio.com/wordofgrace
www.growatgrace.org
pastor-elmer@hotmail.com***