

Of God that Showeth Mercy

(Romans 9:16)

Outline by Randy Wages

4/29/07

Note: The text below was prepared for oral delivery rather than for publication in print. As such, be aware that sentence fragments are intentionally used and that this document has not been edited to correct the errors in grammar, sentence structure, etc.

A. Introduction:

1. Introduce the title and the primary text of Romans 9:16
2. Background ó Review as background the essence of prior message, titled, "Face to Face," referring to Genesis 32:24-28 and the story of Jacob wrestling with the pre-incarnate Christ. Comment on:
 - a. His prevailing ó "as a prince"
 - b. Vs. 27 ó the name '**Jacob**' means supplanter / cheater

B. Romans 9:1-16 (Read):

1. Romans 9:15 ó is basically God telling us that, "It is not unfair because I am God."
 - a. Mercy = compassion by way of act or deed.
 - b. Turn to Exodus 33:18-19 from where this is quoted: Note here the word is translated "**gracious**" ó as in show favor upon; "**Shew mercy**" ó act in accordance with His election ó election unto salvation that is totally conditioned on another ó the Lord Jesus Christ.
2. Romans 9:16:
 - a. "**..it...**" is referring to God's election of a people and all that they are elected unto.
 - b. "**...not of him that willeth...**" asserts how God's election is not based upon the sinner's choice ó not the sinner's for the taking simply because he desires or wills the blessing. Election and therefore salvation is totally "of God."
 - c. Nor "**... of him that runneth...**" That is, election and the salvation that the elect are chosen unto is not determined by the willful decisions or works (the "running") of sinners ó not owing to man's will or to his work. I.e. ó God doesn't elect or choose the sinner because of anything he does nor because of anything that God foresees He will do.
 - d. But "**...of God that sheweth mercy.**" Key ó election is unto salvation. Grace necessitates election! To deny that truth is to argue with God's way of salvation and exposes that one actually is insisting that salvation is of works. If that's not the case, then it is of him that willeth or runneth, contrary to the scripture.
3. Well, how does God show mercy?
 - a. In the mercy seat ó in and by the Lord Jesus Christ who came, lived, and died for the elect.
 - b. Ref. Ex. 34:7 where God says He show mercy to thousands; yet by no means clear the guilty. Only in Christ can these truths coexist ó based solely upon the satisfaction He made.

4. **“Not of him that runneth...”** Returning again to this phrase, let us consider that even though election and salvation is not of him that runneth, there is a race to be run according to scripture.
- a. Heb 12:1-2 (Read)
 - (1) **“...looking unto Jesus as the author and finisher...”** ó completeness ó perfection that is Him
 - (2) **“sat down”** ó a finished work. So we see that our running has no causal role in our salvation for it involves looking to one who has finished it all.
 - (3) As **“sons of Jacob”** (Mal 3:6) **“we are not consumed”** Like Jacob *was princes* we prevail and only in that sense (Ex. 32) ó by virtue of an inheritance
 - (4) Truly **“it”** (the choosing and what we are chosen unto ó the mercy shown by virtue of Christ who finished it all with no contribution from us sinners) ó is all of God ó **“...of God that sheweth mercy...”**
5. Today we will observe the Lord’s Table in remembrance of this very work.
- a. All are invited to partake who look to Jesus as the one who met all that was required ó the finisher of our faith. That’s what is being professed in the observance of this ordinance ó remembering that it is all of God who sheweth mercy.
 - (1) Unleavened bread ó His broken body
 - (a) We see the perfection of Christ. Leaven representing sin. And knowing, as Gal 5:9 says, **“A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump.”** So, in order for God to show mercy, we must have that perfection and we look to that in Christ ó the sinless one who kept the law’s precept perfectly.
 - (b) So to assign even the slightest causal or meritorious role to anything which proceeds from you is to inject leaven ó and that little leaven leavens the whole lump and is a denial of salvation by grace. And that is a rejection of God’s way and truth.
 - (2) Wine ó representing His blood that was shed to pay for sins whereby God shows mercy while dealing fully with the guilt of sin in satisfaction to his justice.

C. Summary:

So even today as we partake of the Lord’s table, be mindful that it is a testimony that you too see that all of your salvation **“...is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy”** ó i.e. ó based solely upon the merit of Christ’s substitutionary obedience unto death, typified in this bread and wine of which we’re about to partake.

Footnote from the author: While this sermon was prepared and delivered by me, I often utilize the commentaries, study helps, and teachings of others to supplement my own prayerful study of the scriptures. Since this document was not originally prepared for publication in print, please excuse and recognize that it was unfeasible to properly identify and credit all of the various original sources used to develop the content herein. Ultimately, it is my sincere and foremost objective to accurately present the gospel of God’s grace found in the only infallible source, God’s word itself ó the Bible.