

Sermon Series: Romans

Sermon Text: Romans 9:19-29 The Potter's Right

God exercises His sovereign authority over humanity to display the riches of His glory for His people.

1) God has sovereign authority over humanity as Creator (9:19-21).

- a) "Why does he still find fault? For who can resist His will?"—Arguing that predestination puts blame for sin on God, not on man.
- b) The philosophical answer to address the honest inquiry of the mind is compatibilism.
- c) Paul's answer addresses the scoffer's rebellious heart with an objective moral relation.
 - i) "Who are you, O man, to answer back to God?"
 - ii) You are a clay pot—a creature.
 - iii) God is the Potter—the Creator.
 - iv) Just as the potter has the right to make whatever he purposes from a lump of clay, so God, the Creator, has the right to make whatever He purposes from humanity.
- d) **Application:** Are you offended, embarrassed, or ashamed of God's absolute sovereignty over humanity? Why?

2) God designs some people for the display of His glorious wrath and power (9:22; 27-29).

- a) "vessels of wrath prepared (designed with purpose) for destruction"
- b) Revelatory purpose of Judgment—"to show His wrath and to make known His power"
- c) Example of God's Judgment on Jerusalem/Israel:
 - i) Verses 27-28: Isaiah 10:22-23 "only a remnant"
 - ii) Verse 29: Isaiah 1:9 "like Sodom and . . . Gomorrah"
 - iii) God visibly judged Israel by military destruction through Assyria (8th century BC), Babylon (6th century BC), and Rome (1st century AD).
- d) God's Patience—"has endured with much patience"
- e) **Application:**
 - i) We see God's goodness in His abhorrence of evil.
 - ii) We see God's patience in His endurance of evil.
 - iii) We see God's strength in His destruction of evil.
 - iv) We see the sinfulness of sin by its just punishment.

3) God designs some people for the display of His glorious mercy (9:23-26).

- a) "vessels of mercy, which He prepared beforehand for glory"
- b) Revelatory purpose of Mercy—"to make known the riches of His glory"
- c) Example of God's Deliverance of Jewish Christians and Gentile Christians:
 - i) Surprising Inclusion of Gentiles
 - ii) Jewish Christians flee Jerusalem before destruction.
 - iii) Verses 25-26: Hosea 2:23; 1:10
 - (1) "not My people I will call 'My people'"
 - (2) "not beloved I will call 'Beloved'"
 - (3) "sons of the living God"
- d) **Application:**
 - i) The Riches of His Glory
 - ii) Beholding and Becoming Glory

Doxology: . . . the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, which He will display at the proper time—He who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see. To Him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen. (1 Timothy 6:14-16)