

Sermon Series: Romans

Sermon Text: Romans 9:14-18 God Glorified through Hardened Sinners

True to Himself God demonstrates His covenant righteousness by freely exercising mercy and justice upon sinners.

- Is there injustice on God's part?
- By no means!
- God is not measured by a standard of justice external to Himself. He is the standard of justice.
- The question of covenantal righteousness—is God true to His people?—is one with the question of God's nature/character—is God true to Himself?

1) God displays His covenant righteousness by showing mercy to whomever He wills in sovereign grace.

- a) V. 15 For He says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion." (Exodus 33:19)
 - i) Moses was pleading with God for Israel (Exod. 33:12-16).
 - ii) Moses asked to see God's glory (33:18).
 - iii) God made all His goodness pass before Moses and proclaimed to Moses His name, Jehovah (33:19).
- b) V. 16 So then it depends not on him who wills nor on him who runs, but on God who has mercy.
- c) **Application:**
 - i) We do not enter the Covenant of Grace by our will or effort.
 - ii) We are brought into the Covenant of Grace by God's sovereign mercy.
 - iii) Humility
 - iv) Gratitude
 - v) Glory to God Alone

2) God displays His covenant righteousness by hardening whomever he wills in sovereign justice.

- a) V. 17 For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, "For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I might show My power in you, and that My name might be proclaimed in all the earth." (Exod. 9:16)
 - i) Pharaoh hardened his heart (Exod. 7:13; 8:32; 9:34).
 - ii) God hardened Pharaoh's heart (Exod. 4:21; 7:3; 9:12; 10:1, 20, 27; 11:10; 14:4, 8).
 - iii) Judicial hardening
 - iv) Compatibilism
 - v) Exodus 5:2 But Pharaoh said, "Who is the LORD, that I should obey His voice and let Israel go? I do not know the LORD, and moreover, I will not let Israel go."
 - (1) Exodus 6:6 Say therefore to the people of Israel, "I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will deliver you from slavery to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great acts of judgment. I will take you to be My people, and I will be your God, and you shall know that I am the LORD your God, who has brought you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians."
 - (2) Exodus 7:5 "The Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I stretch out My hand against Egypt and bring out the people of Israel from among them."
 - (3) Exodus 9:16 "But for this purpose I have raised you up, to show you My power, so that My name may be proclaimed in all the earth." (cf. Exod. 15:13-16; Josh. 2:9, 10; 9:9)
- b) V. 18 So then He has mercy on whomever He wills, and He hardens whomever He wills.
- c) **Application:**
 - i) You can learn biblical interpretation and theologizing from Jesus, His Apostles, and Prophets.
 - ii) Do not despair over the strength of evil people and ungodly rulers.
 - iii) Rejoice in all displays of God's glory.

Doxology: Praise the LORD, all nations! Extol Him, all peoples! For great is His steadfast love toward us, and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever. Praise the Lord! (Psalm 117:1-2)