

Vessels of Mercy (Romans 9:14-33)

Pastor Deric

(14) What shall we say then? Is there injustice on God's part? By no means! (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." (16) So then it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy. (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." (18)

So then he has mercy on whomever he wills, and he hardens whomever he wills.

(19) You will say to me then, "Why does he still find fault? For who can resist his will?" (20) But who are you, O man, to answer back to God? Will what is molded say to its molder, "Why have you made me like this?" (21) Has the potter no right over the clay, to make out of the same lump one vessel for honorable use and another for dishonorable use? (22) What if God, desiring to show his wrath and to make known his power, has endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, (23) in order to make known the riches of his glory for vessels of mercy, which he has prepared beforehand for glory-- (24) even us whom he has called, not from the Jews only but also from the Gentiles?

(25) As indeed he says in Hosea, "Those who were not my people I will call 'my people,' and her who was not beloved I will call 'beloved.'" (26) "And in the very place where it was said to them, 'You are not my people,' there they will be called 'sons of the living God.'"

(27) And Isaiah cries out concerning Israel: "Though the number of the sons of Israel be as the sand of the sea, only a remnant of them will be saved, (28) for the Lord will carry out his sentence upon the earth fully and without delay." (29) And as Isaiah predicted, "If the Lord of hosts had not left us offspring, we would have been like Sodom and become like Gomorrah."

(30) What shall we say, then? That Gentiles who did not pursue righteousness have attained it, that is, a righteousness that is by faith; (31) but that Israel who pursued a law that would lead to righteousness did not succeed in reaching that law. (32) Why? Because they did not pursue it by faith, but as if it were based on works. They have stumbled over the stumbling stone, (33) as it is written, "Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."

Practical Application

1. Review (Rom. 9:14-33): The heart of a Spirit-filled and mature Christian is sorrowfully broken for lost people who do not know God. A proper understanding of God will result in having a loving heart like His. God loves you and wants you to be saved, to grow as a Christian, to devote yourself to His mission, and to faithfully fulfill His purpose for your life. Surrender to Jesus, serve Jesus, and develop a heart like Jesus today.
2. God is just, merciful, compassionate, in control (sovereign), purposeful, powerful, and worthy of our praise and proclamation. Worship Him today. Tell others about Him this week.
3. If you harden your heart and resist God's will, God will harden your heart, and you will get worse and worse. Develop a soft heart before God. Ask Him to give you a soft heart and to help you keep a soft heart.

4. God is in sovereign control, and human beings are fully responsible for their choices and decisions. Rest in God's sovereignty and make good responsible decisions today by His grace and power.
5. God is perfect. His knowledge, wisdom, and ways are perfect. We can never rightly question Him and His perfect decisions. Trust Him and yield to Him.
6. God is the potter (molder), and we are the clay (pot). Let Him mold you into what He wants you to be.
7. God's rights are greater than our (human) rights. We should be asking what God wants, not what we want.
8. Be a vessel of honor instead of dishonor. You were created for honor.
9. Be a vessel of mercy instead of a vessel of wrath. Recognize God's mercy. Thank God for mercy. Ask God for more mercy.
10. Be a vessel of honor instead of a vessel of shame. Let God use you to the fullest for His good purposes.
11. God is very patient. But if you continue to rebel against Him, satan and sin will eventually destroy you, and you will experience His just judgment.
12. Through Jesus Christ, you can experience the eternal riches of God's glory. GRACE: God's Riches At Christ's Expense is what you need today and forever.
13. No matter how far you have gone astray, through Jesus Christ, you can be one of God's beloved sons or daughters. God loves you and wants you to be a part of His forever family.
14. Be a part of God's remnant people. Will you choose God over the sinful ways and patterns of this world?
15. God will one day sentence the earth with perfect judgment and justice. Turn to Christ before it is too late.
16. God often preserves nations, states, and cities because of the remnant of His people who live there. Are you a part of that remnant?
17. We are only made right with God through faith in Jesus Christ. Trust in Him today. Keep trusting Him today.
18. Whoever comes to Jesus and believes in Him will never be put to shame and will have eternal honor.

Announcements

- Feb 12: Starting Monday February 12 "The Pursuit" – Men's small groups will meet M, T, Thurs & Sun (Led by: Brad Vick, Rip Coker, DeWayne Osborn and Clay Hammac). Contact Brad Vick – (205) 396-0153 – bwvick@yahoo.com
- March 3, Food Pantry Tour. Stop by anytime between 12:30pm and 3:30pm.
- Mighty Oaks Potluck is today in the Fellowship Hall (Feb. 25).
- Be praying for Enza and Caitlin Kone as they prepare to start a Christian School in the Ivory Coast in West Africa.