

# Romans 9:14-18

## God's Righteous Will

### 1. 9:14-16 – God's Righteousness in Mercy

- a. *"What shall we say then?"* if His word of promise didn't include all Israel or Abe's seed
- b. *"unrighteousness with God?"* -The cry of those who think God created us for damnation
  - i. Unrighteous → God create/chose/decrees men to sin, then hate/judges them for it
  - ii. Unrighteous → Unrighteousness commends God's righteousness – Rom 3:5-8
  - iii. Unrighteous → God not doing what he said he would do for Israel.
- c. 15 - *"I will have mercy..."* - 4x *"I will"* -The word of God to Israel was a mercy to them.
  - i. *"on whom I will..."* - God can have mercy on whom he wants, when he wants.
  - ii. Remember Jonah, and the lesson of God giving mercy on whom he will.
  - iii. He doesn't decree the damned, by sin all men are - Rom 1:20, 28, 3:10, 5:12
  - iv. God wills to have mercy: not to give what they deserve - 1 Tim 2:4, Gen 12:2-3
  - v. God gave mercy after Israel sinned (not before the world) - Exo 32:7-14, 33:4-19
  - vi. God did not have to give mercy; he could have started over with Moses (a remnant)
- d. 16 - *"not of him that willeth, nor... runneth"* - God's mercies not by Israel's will or work.
  - i. The word of God shows mercy on whom he will, not granted by their right or might.
  - ii. Israel needed mercy from God, He did not have to give it, He chose to have mercy.
  - iii. God's word is effectual, because on whom he will he has mercy (those that believe)
  - iv. Conclusion: God is righteous, merciful, and gracious – and is still today – Rom 11:32

### 2. 9:17-18 – God's Righteousness in Hardening

- a. *"the scripture saith"* - Harkening back again to Israel's origin/deliverance - Exo 9:16
- b. *"for this same purpose"* - what is that purpose? To declare his name in the earth.
  - i. This is the word of God being effectual even when he does not show mercy.
  - ii. It is about God's purpose getting done, whether they receive mercy or hardening.
- c. 18 - *"whom he will he hardeneth"* – Referring not only to Pharaoh, but Israel – Ps 95:7-11
  - i. God's word is effectual, because whom he will he hardens (unbelieving Israel)
  - ii. God's purpose fulfilled many times using hardening – Deu 2:30, Josh 11:20, 1 Sa 6:6
  - iii. Unbelieving Israel's hardened hearts was used to bring salvation – Heb 2:10-11
- d. Hardened hearts are a result and reaction, not a starting point decreed before the world.
  - i. Exo 14:17 -*"I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians"* (future, not the past)
- e. How to harden hearts: 1) sin in the heart 2) add pride 3) reprove, correct, instruct, provoke
  - i. Do the latter often, with confidence, and a strong hand – Exo 3:18-20, Eph 6:4
  - ii. Result: rebellion, obstinate, unyielding, disobedient; no hearing, belief. John 12:40
  - iii. How to change a hard heart? 1) Melt it, 2) Break it. (The first is less pain, but slow.)
- f. Pharaoh's hardening was a process: Exo 5:1-3, 7:1-4, 12-13, 22, 8:8, 15, 8:19, 25-32, 9:4-7
  - i. Pharaoh repents... but then hardened his heart, again – Exo 9:27-35, 10:1
  - ii. God's word is effectual in those that repent and those who do not – Eze 18:23-32
  - iii. God will have all Israel repent and be saved ... – Matt 12:41, Matt 23:37, Acts 17:30

But not all of Israel delivered from Egypt gets the promise, so it is now - Heb 3:15-19