

Romans 9:19-23

The Potter and the Clay

1. Romans 9 Review

- a. The word of God to Israel is effectual, because...
- b. V6,8 - It is a word of promise (not to flesh)
- c. v16, 18 - It is by the mercy of God at his will (not of man's effort)
- d. v21 - God forms the nation, honors the nation, destroys the nation, saves the nation.

2. 9:19 - Resisting God's Will

- a. *"Thou wilt say then unto me"* ... The same self-justifying man in Rom 3:5
 - i. Because God has mercy and hardens whom he wills... Rom 9:18
- b. *"Why doth he yet find fault?"* - Whose fault is their failure? A: Their own. Rom 3:6, 3:9-10
 - i. Hardening (against God) happens where there is already sin & pride ← Guilty!
 - ii. Fault with whom: Wicked Pharaoh, hardened Israel in the flesh (Rom 9:3, 11:11)
- c. *"For who hath resisted his will?"* - Calvin? No, the same self-justifying man above.
 - i. God's will resisted → Eze 33:11, Luke 13:34, Rom 13:2, 1Th 2:18, 1Tim 2:4, 2Tim 3:8
 - ii. Who hath resisted? Unbelieving Israel hardened against God - Acts 7:51, 54
 - iii. "his will" stated in v15, 17 is His orientation toward sinful man, not man's response.
 - iv. All resist God. Hardening occurs when resistant man meets immovable God.
 - v. For some God is moved with compassion, but God does not owe us anything.

3. 9:20-21 – The Potter's Power

- a. *Why does he find fault?* God made them. They sinned against him. He did not sin.
- b. *Who resists his will?* You are, O man. Learn what Job did - Job 13:15, 40:1-5
- c. *"Who art thou that repliest against God?"* - Don't forget your place, disobedient children.
- d. *"Shall the thing formed say..."* - Prophesying Israel's blindness in Isa 29:13-16 cf. Mk 7:5-13
- e. Hardened Israel crucifies Jesus and are broken as a clay vessel - Isa 30:1-3, 10-18, 45:9-11
- f. *"Hath not the power power over the clay..."* - Yes, to save or destroy – Isa 64:8-12, Ps 2:7-9
 - i. The potter is God and the thing formed is Israel - Jer 18:1-12

4. 9:22-23 - The Longsuffering of God

- a. First thing to note about these two vessels: they are of the same lump.
 - i. Remember, Rom 9:6, Just because you're flesh Israel does not mean you get saved.
 - ii. Two vessels from the same lump of Israel: 1) broken Israel, 2) believing Israel.
- b. *"willing to shew his wrath..."* upon certain vessels of displeasure - Hos 8:2-8, 14
 - i. Which final wrath has not yet come - Rev 6:17, 2 Pet 3:9-10
- c. *"endured with much longsuffering..."* – Which Peter spoke of as well as Paul – 2 Pet 3:15-16
 - i. God suffered long in the days of Noah while the ark was being built – 1 Pet 3:20
 - ii. Jesus separated Israel and would longsuffer til the day of destruction - Mt 13:24-30
 - iii. God was longsuffering when they crucified Jesus Christ – 2 Cor 5:19, 1 Tim 1:16
 - iv. The goodness of God should lead these vessels to repent – Rom 2:3-5
- d. *"glory on the vessels of mercy"* – Jesus spoke to two vessels in Israel (woe and blessing)
 - i. To the unbelieving woe and destruction – Matt 7:21, 21:43-45, 23:29,33
 - ii. To the little flock blessing/glory - Mat 13:16, 19:28, Luke 12:32, Isa 46:13, Rom 9:4