Romans Lesson 18

Robert Harkrider · Romans 9:19–33

INTRODUCTION

- Read Romans chapters 9, 10, and 11 together, because the three chapters really go together as a unit.
- Through the first eight chapters, the apostle has illustrated the fact that the gospel is God's means of salvation.
- His main argument seems to be that God has the sovereign right to choose the means of salvation.

1 God Has the Right to Choose the Means

Romans 9:19–24

- God doesn't elect or choose specific individuals to be saved, and they alone are saved. That's the doctrine of Calvinism taught today.
- What God has elected is the means of salvation.
- Nay, but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing form say to him that formed it, Why hast thou made me thus?
- God, like the potter, with power over the clay, has the right to form whatever means of salvation that he wishes to form.

2 The Potter and the Clay in Jeremiah 18

Jeremiah 18:6–12

- Behold, as the clay is in the potter's hand, so are you in mine hand, O house of Israel.
- God said, Whatsoever way man responds, I'll either bless them or I'll punish them.
- And they said, There is no hope. We will walk after our own devices, and we will every one do the imagination of his evil heart.
- What is being argued in Romans chapter 9 is that God wants all to be saved, but he has the right to choose the means.

3 Vessels of Wrath and Vessels of Mercy

Romans 9:22–24; Romans 1:18; Acts 10:34–35

- God has held out an opportunity to be saved. God does not force man's choice. But God uses it to his own purpose.
- Pharaoh hardened his heart. He became a vessel of wrath. But God showed his long suffering.
- God doesn't make us choose to reject him or to accept him. But he can foreknow which one we'll do.
- God has elected a plan by which to present forgiveness for all men. And those who respond in faith become vessels of mercy.

4 Only a Remnant Shall Be Saved

Romans 9:25–29; Isaiah 10:22–23; Romans 11:23

- Even long ago God had promised that Gentiles would also be accepted, those who were not God's people.
- Though the number of the children of Israel be as the sand of the sea, a remnant shall be saved.
- It isn't because one's born in the flesh he's God's child, but rather because one believes in the Christ.
- Many who were born in the flesh rejected the Christ. Only a remnant accepted the Christ.
- Only through Jesus Christ can even the remnant be saved.
- If they abide not in unbelief, they shall be saved. How many have done that? Only a remnant.

5 Because They Sought It Not by Faith

Romans 9:30–32; James 2:17; John 8:24

- God chose the plan, not the man. Man has to then make the choice of whether to believe or not to believe.
- Because they sought it not by faith, but as it were by the works of the law.
- Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.
- Why have the Jews been rejected? Because of their unbelief.
- Except ye believe that I am He, Jesus said, ye shall die in your sins.

THE CHALLENGE

Have you obeyed the gospel? Don't be as a Jew who rejects, but be as the Gentile who believes and obeys.

MY NOTES