

08-13-2017

Message: God Sovereignly Magnifies His Mercy to Those Who Were Not His People

Text: Romans 9:22-29

Introduction

- A. None of us in this room was born regenerate, coming out of our mothers' wombs as born again believers in Jesus Christ as Lord. As God's prophet David wrote ...

Psalm 51:5 Behold, **I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me.**

Ephesians 2:3 Among them **we also** all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and **were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.**

- B. So raise your hand if you lived the first 2 years of your life as an unbeliever - I'm guessing that is all of us. Keep them raised if you lived the first 5 years of your life as an unbeliever. 10 years, 15, 20 etc. God could have ended our lives the day before He saved us, but instead showed us mercy. Why us?
- C. Every believer who is the child of a Jewish mother, please raise your hand. Note the sparsity. The current ethnic composition of the church in Paul's day (and in our own), where Jews are a remnant minority and the vast majority of members are Gentiles is exactly as God has chosen it to be at this time in salvation history. Why us, and not them?
- D. In Romans 9:6-13 Paul has shown that the failure of Israel to receive Jesus their Messiah is not a failure of God's word of promise, for not all Israel is Israel. God has not chosen all descendants of Abraham to be children of the promise. God's Word, God's promise to Abraham has not failed/fallen.
- E. Paul in 9:14-21 addressed arrogant charges that God is being unfair in choosing whomever He wills to be included or excluded as a child of His promised salvation. Now in 9:22-29 Christ would have us ponder the significance of being chosen as vessels of mercy to receive the riches of His glory, so that ...
1. our hearts would sincerely worship the Lord for His faithfulness and mercy.
 2. our hearts would be deeply and forever thankful for our undeserved salvation in Christ Jesus
 3. we, who have received mercy, would be made humble and compassionate to show mercy to others, especially to the unfortunate, the outcast, the underprivileged, the diminished by society.

4. we would, like God, be patient with unbelievers.

5. all sinners would be encouraged to call upon the Lord Jesus for mercy.

F. In Romans 9:22-29 God is giving us a glimpse into His purpose for choosing some to be hardened in unbelief unto destruction, and some to receive mercy to believe in the Lord unto eternal salvation. In verses 22-23 we see 3 purposes listed, the first 2 serve the third purpose.

I. God is desirous/willing to reveal the glory of His righteous wrath.

Romans 9:22 *What if **God, desirous/willing to demonstrate His wrath** and to make His power known, endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, ²³ in order to make known the riches of His glory upon vessels of mercy, which He prepared beforehand for glory,*

A. God's glory is the surpassing wealth and beauty of all of His attributes and acts. God is desirous to reveal all of his glory, one beautiful element being His righteous wrath against all unrighteousness and evil.

Proverbs 6:16 There are six **things which the LORD hates, Yes, seven** which are an abomination to Him: ¹⁷ Haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, ¹⁸ a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that run rapidly to evil, ¹⁹ a false witness *who utters lies, and one who spreads strife among brothers.*

Proverbs 8:13 "The fear of the LORD is to **hate evil; Pride and arrogance and the evil way and the perverted mouth, I hate.**

1. Many today love evil, love unrighteousness. Politicians and news media love to spin truth and tell lies. ISIS loves to rape and shed innocent blood. Isn't it a thing of beauty that the Lord so hates these things that He is moved with righteous anger against such things versus being indifferent or even condoning?

2. When we ask the question, why did God appoint evil to exist, a biblical answer, at least in part, is, for the revelation of the beauty of His glory, which includes His righteous hatred and wrath toward evil, which would not be revealed if there were no sin. That much is understandable with our limited intellect/logic. What is "hyperlogical" is how that is good, kind, fair, etc. But as we saw God say to us last week, we don't have the legal, moral, intellectual capacity and right to sit in judgment of God. Romans 9:19 You will say to me then, "Why does He still find fault? For who resists His will?"²⁰ **On the contrary, who are you, O man, who answers back to God?** The thing molded will not say to the molder, "Why did you make me like this," will it?²¹ Or does not the potter have a right over the clay, to make from the same lump one vessel for honorable use and another for common use?

3. Even now God's glorious, righteous wrath is moved against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of people by hardening them, delivering them over to sin's enslavement and their ultimate destruction.

Romans 1:18 For **the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness**, ... ²⁸ And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, **God gave them over to a depraved mind**, to do those things which are not proper,

Psalms 7:11 **God is a righteous judge, and a God who has indignation every day.**

4. That God is willing to demonstrate His wrath is already revealed in what He did to crush His divine Son, Jesus for the guilt of our sins. God's wrath against sin is part of the riches of His glory.

Isaiah 53:5 But He was pierced through for our transgressions, **He was crushed for our iniquities**; The chastening for our well-being *fell* upon Him, ... ¹⁰ ... **the LORD was pleased to crush Him, putting Him to grief**; if He would render Himself *as* a guilt offering, ... ¹¹ ... By His knowledge **the Righteous One, My Servant, will justify the many, as He will bear their iniquities.**

II. God is desirous/willing to reveal the glory of His power to righteously judge ungodliness.

Romans 9:22 *What* if **God, desirous/willing** to demonstrate His wrath and **to make His power known**, endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, ²³ in order to make known the riches of His glory upon vessels of mercy, which He prepared beforehand for glory,

- A. God has already demonstrated His desire to reveal the glory of His power to righteously judge unbelievers in His raising up Pharaoh to rebel against Him and oppress God's people. Paul quotes Exodus 9:16 ...

Romans 9:17 For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, "FOR THIS VERY PURPOSE I RAISED YOU UP, TO DEMONSTRATE MY POWER IN YOU, AND THAT MY NAME MIGHT BE PROCLAIMED THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE EARTH."¹⁸ So then He has mercy on whom He desires, and **He hardens whom He desires.**

Exodus 7:2 "You ... and your brother Aaron shall speak to Pharaoh that he let the sons of Israel go out of his land."³ **But I will harden Pharaoh's heart that I may multiply My signs and My wonders in the land of Egypt.**⁴ "When Pharaoh does not listen to you, then I will lay My hand on Egypt and bring out My hosts, My people the sons of Israel, from the land of Egypt **by great judgments.**⁵ **The Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD**

- B. Yet we see that God has not revealed the glory of His power to judge the world with finality, but endured with much patience those He has prepared for destruction, in order to accomplish a third purpose most important to Him.

III. God is desirous/willing to make known the riches of His glory upon His prepared vessels of mercy.

Romans 9:22 *What if **God, desirous/willing** to demonstrate His wrath and to make His power known, endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction,²³ in order **to make known the riches of His glory upon vessels of mercy, which He prepared beforehand for glory,***

Ephesians 2:7 so that in the ages to come **He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.**

- A. God has graciously, patiently withheld the final revelation of His wrath and power to judge the world in order to make known to His chosen vessels of mercy the riches of His glory.
- B. Had God executed His final judgment of the world before sending His Son to earth to die for the sins of His chosen ones and to rise again for their justification, the glory of God's power, and justice would have been revealed, but not (among other things) the glory of His mercy, forgiveness, kindness, love.
- C. So God has been, and still is patiently enduring people He has prepared for destruction, in order to bless His objects of mercy with knowing the riches of His glory, riches that we will share with Him forever in His glory.

Romans 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,²⁴ being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus;²⁵ whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. *This was to demonstrate His righteousness, because **in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed;**²⁶ for the demonstration, *I say*, of His righteousness at the present time, **so that He would be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.***

Romans 2:4 Or do you think lightly of the riches of **His kindness and tolerance and patience,** not knowing that **the kindness of God leads you to repentance?**⁵ But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart **you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God,**

- D. What's more, His purpose is to make known the riches of His glory, not only to elect Israelites to whom He made covenant promises, but also to elect Gentiles, who now through faith in Christ inherit the same promises, becoming like believing Jews, children of Abraham, children of the promise.

Romans 9:22 *What if **God, desirous/willing** to demonstrate His wrath and to make His*

power known, endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction,²³ in order **to make known the riches of His glory upon vessels of mercy, which He prepared beforehand for glory,** ²⁴ *even* us, whom He also called, **not from among Jews only, but also from among Gentiles.**

1. God had once shut up our Gentile ancestors in disobedience. He did not make Himself known to us, or make covenants with us, or give us His Word, or promise us a Messiah as He did to Israel. We were lost, and without hope.

Ephesians 2:11 Therefore **remember that formerly you, the Gentiles in the flesh,** who are called "Uncircumcision " by the so-called "Circumcision," *which is* performed in the flesh by human hands--¹² *remember* that **you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.** ¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴ For He Himself is our peace, who made both *groups into one*

2. But now in Christ, God has shown us Gentiles mercy. Quoting God's promise to wayward Israel, Christ, through His apostle, is saying "I will do for you wayward Gentiles what I promised to wayward Israel."

Romans 9:25 As He says also in Hosea, "I WILL CALL THOSE WHO WERE NOT MY PEOPLE, 'MY PEOPLE,' AND HER WHO WAS NOT BELOVED, 'BELOVED.'" ²⁶ "AND IT SHALL BE THAT IN THE PLACE WHERE IT WAS SAID TO THEM, 'YOU ARE NOT MY PEOPLE,' THERE THEY SHALL BE CALLED SONS OF THE LIVING GOD."

Hosea 2:23 "I will sow her for Myself in the land. I will also have compassion on her who had not obtained compassion, And I will say to those who were not My people, 'You are My people!' And they will say, 'You are my God!'"

Hosea 1:10 Yet the number of the sons of Israel will be like the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured or numbered; And in the place where it is said to them, "You are not My people," It will be said to them, "You are the sons of the living God."

Galatians 3:29 And if you belong to Christ, then **you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to promise.** ... 4:28 And **you brethren, like Isaac, are children of promise.**

- E. God formerly shut up us Gentiles in disobedience to make known to us the glory of His riches in mercy. Now God has shut up Israelites in disobedience so in the future he will make know to them the riches of His mercy. The greater our lostness and doom is revealed to us, the greater the riches of His mercy will be seen by us. The glory of God's wrath and power serve the revelation of the glory of His mercy to His chosen vessels of mercy from among the Jews and Gentiles.

Romans 9:27 Isaiah cries out concerning Israel, "THOUGH THE NUMBER OF THE SONS OF ISRAEL BE LIKE THE SAND OF THE SEA, IT IS THE REMNANT THAT WILL BE SAVED;²⁸ FOR THE LORD WILL EXECUTE HIS WORD ON THE EARTH, THOROUGHLY AND QUICKLY."²⁹ And **just as Isaiah foretold, "UNLESS THE LORD OF SABAOTH HAD LEFT TO US A POSTERITY, WE WOULD HAVE BECOME LIKE SODOM, AND WOULD HAVE RESEMBLED GOMORRAH."**

Romans 11:32 **For God has shut up all in disobedience so that He may show mercy to all.**³³ Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways!

Application: God would have us ponder the significance of being chosen as vessels of mercy to receive the riches of His glory, so that ...

1. Our hearts would sincerely worship the Lord for His faithfulness and mercy.

Romans 15:8 For I say that **Christ has become a servant to the circumcision on behalf of the truth of God** to confirm/secure the promises *given* to the fathers,⁹ **and for the Gentiles to glorify God for His mercy;** as it is written, "THEREFORE I WILL GIVE PRAISE TO YOU AMONG THE GENTILES, AND I WILL SING TO YOUR NAME."¹⁰ Again he says, **"REJOICE, O GENTILES, WITH HIS PEOPLE."**¹¹ And again, **"PRAISE THE LORD ALL YOU GENTILES, AND LET ALL THE PEOPLES PRAISE HIM."**

2. our hearts would be deeply and always thankful for our undeserved salvation in Christ Jesus. God's electing, predestining love was due to no condition He foresaw us meeting, no merit or wisdom or righteousness of our own.

Romans 9:18 So then **He has mercy on whom He desires, and He hardens whom He desires.**

We who are saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ are blessed to believe, not because we are lucky, but because we are loved.

Ephesians 1:4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. **In love⁵ He predestined us** to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, **according to the kind intention of His will,**⁶ to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

3. we, who have received mercy, would be made humble and compassionate to show mercy to others, especially to the unfortunate, the outcast, the underprivileged, the diminished by

society.

Luke 6:36 "**Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.**

Matthew 18:33 '**Should you not also have had mercy on your fellow slave, in the same way that I had mercy on you?**'

1 Corinthians 1:26 For **consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble;**²⁷ but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong,²⁸ and the base things of the world and the despised God has chosen, the things that are not, so that He may nullify the things that are,²⁹ so that no man may boast before God.³⁰ **But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus**
....

Romans 12:16 Be of the same mind toward one another; **do not be haughty in mind, but associate with the lowly.** Do not be wise in your own estimation.

4. we would be, like God, patient with unbelievers, and not react with vengeance at their unbelief.

1 Timothy 1:15 It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost *of all*.¹⁶ Yet for this reason **I found mercy, so that in me as the foremost, Jesus Christ might demonstrate His perfect patience as an example** for those who would believe in Him for eternal life.

2 Timothy 2:24 The Lord's bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged,²⁵ with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth,²⁶ and they may come to their senses *and escape* from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.

5. all sinners would be encouraged to call upon the Lord Jesus for mercy.

Romans 10:11 For the Scripture says, "WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED."¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same *Lord* is Lord of all, **abounding in riches for all who call on Him;**¹³ for "**WHOEVER WILL CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED.**"