



BEULAH FIRST BAPTIST

Rev. Dr. Felix L. Cole, Senior Pastor

April 22, 2026

Focus: Rooted – A Study Through Romans

Week 12: The Plan of God – Sovereignty, Faith and Faithfulness

Dr. Felix L. Cole – Senior Pastor

Introduction:

- Romans 9–11 shifts from the assurance of salvation to the **sovereignty of God's redemptive plan**.
- Paul explains how God's promises remain true despite Israel's rejection of Christ
- This section moves from **sovereignty** → **responsibility** → **faithfulness**.

Key Scriptures

Romans 9:6

Romans 9:15-16

Romans 9:20-21

Romans 9:30-32

1. God's Sovereign Purpose – (Romans 9:6–13)

- A. Not all Israel is Israel (9:6)
- B. God's promise moves through His choosing (9:7–9)
- C. God's purpose is established before human effort (9:10–13)

§ Physical descent does not guarantee spiritual identity.

§ God's promises are fulfilled according to His purpose, not human lineage.

§ God's choosing is rooted in His redemptive plan.

Truths To See:

1. God's promises are fulfilled according to His purpose
2. Salvation is not based on heritage or effort
3. God's plan is established before we act
4. Election is God's choosing according to His purpose.

Biblical Cross References

Genesis 21:12 Genesis 25:23 Malachi 1:2–3

2. God's Mercy and Justice – (Romans 9:14–18)

- A. God is not unjust (9:14)
- B. Mercy is given according to God's will (9:15–16)
- C. God's power is displayed even in opposition (9:17–18)

§ Mercy is not based on human desire or effort.

§ Justice gives what is deserved; mercy withholds judgment.

§ God is righteous in both mercy and judgment.

Truths To See:

1. Mercy is undeserved
2. God is always just
3. God's purposes are greater than our understanding

Biblical Cross References

Exodus 33:19 Exodus 9:16 Psalm 115:3

3. God's Authority – The Potter and the Clay (Romans 9:19–24)

- A. The question of responsibility (9:19)
- B. The authority of the Creator (9:20–21)
- C. The display of mercy and justice (9:22–24)

§ The potter has the right to shape the clay.

§ God's authority is rooted in His role as Creator.

§ God's plan reveals both mercy and justice.

Truths To See:




1. God has the right to rule His creation
2. We are formed by God, not equal to Him
3. God's plan displays both mercy and justice


THE POTTER AND THE CLAY

ROMANS 9:19–24

"Who are you, a mere human being, to talk back to God?"
Romans 9:20





THE IMAGE

-  **THE POTTER**
 - God is the Creator.
 - He has authority.
 - He has the right to shape and assign purpose. (v. 21)
-  **THE CLAY**
 - We are God's creation.
 - We are formed by His hands.
 - We are dependent on Him. (v. 20)
-  **THE PURPOSE**
 - The potter makes vessels for different uses.
 - Each has a purpose. (v. 21)



**GOD IS THE POTTER
WE ARE THE CLAY**
He forms us. He shapes us. He assigns purpose.
All for His glory.

THE TRUTH

-  **GOD IS SOVEREIGN**
God has the right to do as He pleases. (v. 15)
-  **GOD SHOWS MERCY**
He has mercy on whom He chooses. (v. 16)
-  **GOD SHOWS JUSTICE**
He has the right to display His power and His wrath. (v. 22)
-  **OUR RESPONSE**
 - Do not question the Potter.
 - Trust His wisdom.
 - Rest in His purpose. (v. 20)

THE BOTTOM LINE

GOD FORMS US We are His creation, formed by His hands. (v. 20)	→	GOD SHAPES US He determines how we are shaped. (v. 21)	→	GOD USES US He makes us for His purposes. (v. 21)	→	WE TRUST HIM He is God. We are not. We trust Him. (v. 20–21)
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WHAT IT TEACHES:

- God is sovereign over all creation
- God shapes according to His will
- God's purposes are intentional

WHAT IT DOES NOT TEACH:

- That God is unjust
- That people have no responsibility
- That life is without purpose

Biblical Cross References

Isaiah 29:16 Isaiah 45:9 Jeremiah 18:1–6

4. God's Plan Revealed – (Romans 9:25–29)

- A. God calls beyond Israel (9:25–26)
- B. A remnant is preserved (9:27–29)

§ God's plan has always included both Jews and Gentiles.

§ God preserves a faithful remnant according to His grace.

Truths To See:

1. God's plan is bigger than one people group
2. God preserves a remnant
3. God's mercy extends beyond expectation

Biblical Cross References

Hosea 2:23 Isaiah 10:22–23