

## **Salt Church**

### **Romans 9:19-24**

**“Who Are We”**

**February 8, 2026**

**The Greatest Book Ever Written**

**David and Cindy (June 6-13<sup>th</sup>)**

### **RECAP**

**<sup>14</sup>What shall we say then? *Is there* unrighteousness with God? Certainly not! <sup>15</sup>For He says to Moses, “I will have mercy on whomever I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whomever I will have compassion.” <sup>16</sup>So then *it is not* of him who wills, nor of him who runs, but of God who shows mercy. <sup>17</sup>For the Scripture says to the Pharaoh, “For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I may show My power in you, and that My name may be declared in all the earth.” <sup>18</sup>Therefore He has mercy on whom He wills, and whom He wills He hardens.**

### **Our conclusion was this:**

- God absolutely **is not unrighteous** in any way.
- God determines whom He will have mercy and compassion upon.
  - God does this without any outside influence (at all!).
    - We are all sinners, meaning we all have the capacity to be just as evil as Pharaoh.
    - And we all deserve judgement.

### **So, here is what we know:**

- Man, who is completely sinful
  - Born into sin
  - Without any hope unless God pours out His grace and mercy
- God, who is completely holy (sinless)
  - Sovereign (All powerful)
  - The creator
  - All knowing
    - Says these words:
      - **“I will have mercy on whomever I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whomever I will have compassion.”**
      - **I will have mercy on whom I will, and I will harden whom I will.**
    - **What do we do with that Pastor?**
      - What's the point Pastor?
        - Paul and the Holy Spirit anticipate these questions in the next verses.

### **As we work through all of this,**

- **notice that Paul does not do any theological tap dance trying to explain God and His decision-making processes.**
- Paul simply says, “**Who are we** to question God?”

### **Now we pick up where we left off:**

#### **Romans 9:19-24**

***19 You will say to me then, “Why does He still find fault? For who has resisted His will?”***

- Two very important questions.
  - ***1<sup>st</sup> “Why does He still find fault?”***
    - God is holy, holy, holy.
      - God is completely separated from sin.
      - He is not tempted by sin, nor does He have a desire for sin.
      - God’s standard is holiness, meaning completely without sin.
    - This is why God finds fault.
  - ***2<sup>nd</sup> “For who has resisted His will?”***
    - In the Greek it reads more like this, ***“Why would God find fault if it is for His purpose that man resist His will?”***
    - **We would say it this way, “How can God blame anyone for sin and unbelief when He has sovereignly determined that person’s destiny?”**

***In other words,***

***“That’s not fair!”***

***Let’s talk about “fair”***

- **Fair is** “The wages of sin is death”
- **Fair is** our sin, that we freely commit (even as Christians); deserves death and eternal separation from God.
- **Fair is** NO HOPE AT ALL!
  - **Do you understand what fair is?**

- **Fair is death**, Hell, and separation from God with absolutely no hope.

### Let me tell you what is not fair

- **It is not fair** how we treat and have treated Jesus.
- **It is not fair** that He was beaten and hung on a tree for our sins.
- **It is not fair** that Jesus suffocated to death while crowds celebrated His death.
- **It was not fair** that He healed Jerusalem of all sickness and disease over a three-year period, and we hung Him on a cross.
- **It was not fair** that He preached the truth, and we refused to accept it.
- **It is not fair** that we chose to believe a lie rather than the truth.

### Wait a minute Pastor I wasn't there, and I didn't do that!

- How are WE different?
  - **We know the truth**
    - **but often do we live like we don't.**
      - Was there not a time in your life when you proclaimed that you knew Him **and yet everything about your life screamed that you didn't believe Him.**

### Here is what I know:

- WE DO NOT WANT FAIR!
  - **JESUS IS NOT OFFERING FAIR!**

- God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit **are offering forgiveness, grace, and mercy**, to people that do not deserve it.
  - That most certainly is not fair.
    - And **who are we** to question to whom He offers grace and mercy.
    - **Who are we** to shake our finger at Him and claim that He is not fair!
    - When we do this, **we stand before God as His judge.**
      - That is the most dangerous place to be as a human being.

**I think the Apostle Paul agrees!**

***20 But indeed, O man, who are you to reply against God? Will the thing formed say to him who formed it, “Why have you made me like this?”***

**So many verses come to mind when I ponder these two sentences.**

**Isaiah 64:6**

***6 But we are all like an unclean thing,  
And all our righteousness's are like <sup>[b]</sup>**filthy rags;**  
We all fade as a leaf,  
And our iniquities, like the wind,  
Have taken us away.***

- “Filthy rags” meaning in the Hebrew, menstrual rags! (Get the picture?)
  - ***This is who we are without God’s grace and mercy***

## Proverbs 9:10

***10 “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom,  
And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.***

- The word translated as fear in the Hebrew is a very strong word for fear.
  - It is dreadful, exceedingly fearful, extreme reverence.

## Why would God want us to fear Him in that way Pastor?

- **How is that the beginning of wisdom?**
  - The reason so many people have issue with this chapter is that **they do not understand who God is** and as a result they do not fear Him.
  - People fear judges, police officers, mob bosses, gang members, why?
    - **Because they have the power to take your life.**
      - But God has somehow been reduced to the big man upstairs.
      - (**Side note**) If He is the “big man upstairs” to you are anyone else that is a sure sign that you or anyone else that **you do not know Him.**

## Jesus said it this way:

### Matthew 10:28

***28 And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.***

### ***Back to Romans 9***

***20 But indeed, O man, who are you to reply against God? Will the thing formed say to him who formed it, “Why have you made me like this?”***

- Paul's response is an appeal to SILENCE.

### ***REMEMBER JOB?***

- *Job 38, 39, 40*

***Paul through the power of the Holy Spirit reminds us of two things:***

- ***We are God created beings***
  - ***We could never sit in judgement over God. (NEVER!)***

***21 Does not the potter have power over the clay, from the same lump to make one vessel for honor and another for dishonor?***

- Do you remember what Adam's name means? (**dirt man**)
  - Do you think it is by accident that Paul chooses clay as an example?
    - The potter makes out of the clay whatever He wishes.

(side note)

I heard a very well-known pastor preach on this this chapter.

- He covered it in a 45-minute span.
- His point of view was different than what has been taught to you over the past month.
- He tried his best to make this chapter not say what it has been saying all along.
- He tried to redefine the word “hate”
- He pointed to scripture in the New Testament that had not been written yet when this letter was received.
- He closed his argument by saying, ***“I have never heard of a potter making a vessel for destruction.”***
  - As if that sealed the deal.
    - I pondered that for a while.
      - It sounded so logical when he said it but then I thought, “what about sporting clays?”
      - You may know it by another name “skeet”
        - They are absolutely clay vessels made for destruction.

### **What's your point pastor?**

- We cannot make the scripture say what it does not say.
  - **It really doesn't matter if we disagree with what God is doing or has done, He's God!**
  - I will also add that understanding all that God does is a **pipe dream.**
    - When God stops being mysterious, He stops being God.

**God says it this way through the prophet Isaiah**

## **Isaiah 55:8-9**

**8 “For My thoughts are not your thoughts,  
Nor are your ways My ways,” says the Lord.  
9 “For as the heavens are higher than the earth,  
So are My ways higher than your ways,  
And My thoughts than your thoughts.**

### **Paul continues his argument:**

**22 What if God, wanting to show His wrath and to make His power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath prepared for destruction,**

- **Paul is not trying to reveal the origin of evil**, we already know that Satan is the father of evil.
- Paul is pointing to why God **allows evil to go unpunished for a season**.
  - God allows evil to go unpunished so that His power would be known.
    - I understand that this is not how most of us would do it, but His ways are higher than ours.
    - Paul does describe the patience and long suffering of God in these moments.
      - In the next verses we will see that this long suffering is also for those who will receive the gift of faith.

### **Pastor, what do we do with this sentence?**

- **“the vessels of wrath prepared for destruction,”**
  - What does that mean?
    - I fall back to Revelation 13:8

***<sup>8</sup>All who dwell on the earth will worship him (Satan), whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.***

- The names written in the Lambs Book of Life are the ones that will be saved.
- They are the ones that will find Jesus irresistible.
- They are the ones that the Father will bring to Jesus.
- They are the ones that will be shown grace and mercy.
  - Nothing will change that.
  - No names will be added, nor will any be taken away.

**“The vessels of wrath prepared for destruction”** are those whose names are not written in the Lambs book of Life.

- ***They will be treated fairly***
  - They will be judged in truth
    - They absolutely will get a fair trial, and they will receive what they deserve.

***It is us, the child of God that will not be treated fairly.***

- Jesus has taken from us!
  - Our shame
  - Our sin
  - The penalty of eternal death and suffering

So, when we ponder guys like Judas, keep in mind he was and will be treated fairly.

[Back to Romans 9](#)

***22 What if God, wanting to show His wrath and to make His power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, 23 and that He might make known the riches of His glory on the vessels of mercy, which He had prepared beforehand for glory, 24 even us whom He called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles?***

- ***Can you hear what God is saying?***

- **How** could we ever know God's wrath against sin and the sinner unless He allowed sin to happen?
- **How could we understand** and know God's longsuffering with sinners unless there are sinners?
- **How could we possibly understand** the riches of His glory and the joy of His grace and mercy unless there are those upon whom He pours out His grace and mercy?
- **How could we understand** His sovereignty in salvation unless we were told that our names were written in the Lambs book of Life before the earth was created?
  - **How could we understand** the worth and value of the love of the Father unless Jesus had said, "no one comes to me unless the Father brings them?"

***God is revealing Himself to us!***

- God is revealing the answer to one the most asked questions by man.
  - Why would God allow sin to enter into His perfect world?

***23...that He might make known the riches of His glory on the vessels of mercy, which He had prepared beforehand for glory,***

***<sup>24</sup> even us whom He called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles?***

**Again, I close with this final thought:**

- **You can leave here today** mad at God for not saving everyone.
- **You can leave here today** as God's judge because He doesn't save everyone.
  - **Or you can leave here today celebrating** that He chose you.
  - He rescued you.
  - He adopted you.
    - That you are His
    - And He is yours

Close in prayer.