

Romans 9:14-29
For the week of September 17, 2023

Reflection

1. What were some of the takeaways, for you, from Sunday's sermon?

2. Were there questions, comments, concerns...?

Paul's argument from Scripture is convincing. He shows that God is out to secure mercy, not condemnation. God is not unjustly condemning some, but in mercy saving some. We sinners have no claim on God whatever. If we are saved, that is due to God's mercy, not the justice of our cause.¹

Paul has made it clear that God does what he wills in both showing mercy and hardening (v. 18). But to human ways of thinking that presents some problems. Paul proceeds to look at them, and he advances his argument by showing that what God has done has been to extend his mercy to the Gentiles.²

Observation (vs. 14-18)

3. What is Paul saying and to what people group is he speaking?

Interpretation

4. Why does Paul cite Exodus 33:19 and Exodus 9:16?

¹ Leon Morris, [*The Epistle to the Romans*](#), The Pillar New Testament Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI; Leicester, England: W.B. Eerdmans; Inter-Varsity Press, 1988), 359.

² Leon Morris, [*The Epistle to the Romans*](#), The Pillar New Testament Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI; Leicester, England: W.B. Eerdmans; Inter-Varsity Press, 1988), 363.

5. How do these verses speak to God's purpose and mercy?

Application

6. When circumstances don't seem to make sense in your interpretation of right and wrong, how can you find peace in God's sovereignty? (See also Isaiah 55:8-9)

Observation (vs. 19-24)

7. Why is Paul asking these questions?

Interpretation

8. Compare and contrast these verses with Job 40 & 41.

Application

9. How do you handle God's sovereign direction when it does not align with your plan, perception, etc.?

Observation (vs. 25-29)

10. What is the point that Paul is making to his audience?

Interpretation

11. Why does Paul use Scripture from Hosea and Isaiah in his argument?

Application

12. What are ways that you can utilize Scripture for better focus in your circumstances?