

# ROMANS 9:14-24

## THE POTTER AND THE CLAY

*Big Idea: God is perfectly just in His judgments and perfectly free in His mercy, revealing the glory of His grace in saving sinners.*

### THE POTTER IS PERFECTLY JUST (*Romans 9:14*)

Key truth: God never owes mercy to anyone. If mercy were owed, it would not be mercy.

- Why do people often assume that God must operate according to human definitions of fairness? (e.g. Genesis 18:25; Isaiah 55:8-9)
- Why is it important that Scripture declares God perfectly just (e.g. Deuteronomy 32:4; Psalm 145:17) and how would the Gospel collapse if God were not perfectly just?

### THE POTTER IS PERFECTLY MERCIFUL (*Romans 9:15-18*)

Key truth: God shows mercy according to His sovereign grace and gives others over to the hardness they ultimately desire.

- The Scripture says, Pharaoh repeatedly hardened his own heart (Exodus 8:15, 8:32), yet "God hardened Pharaoh's heart." How do we explain that these things are both true and do not contradict?
- What does the story of Pharaoh teach us about the seriousness of hardening our hearts toward God, and why does Paul emphasize mercy instead of human effort in salvation? (e.g. Matthew 13:10-17; Hebrews 3:15)

### THE POTTER IS PERFECTLY SOVEREIGN (*Romans 9:19-21*)

Key truth: God has absolute authority over His creation.

- Why do people struggle with the idea of God's sovereignty?
- How should the potter and clay illustration help our perspective? (e.g. Isaiah 29:16; Isaiah 45:9; Jeremiah 18:1-6)

### THE POTTER IS PERFECTLY GLORIOUS (*Romans 9:22-24*)

Key truth: The goal of salvation is the display of God's glory.

- Why does Paul say the ultimate purpose of salvation is God's glory and how does realizing we are "vessels of mercy" shape our worship?
- What should this passage motivate us to do regarding evangelism?