

A cosmic background featuring a vibrant nebula in shades of orange, red, and white on the right, and a dark, star-filled space with a greenish-blue nebula on the left. The text is centered over this celestial scene.

Hell, a Backdrop for Heaven

Romans 9:19-24

Heaven In View

Romans 9:19-24

¹⁹ You will say to me then, “Why does he still find fault? For who can resist his will?”

²⁰ But who are you, O man, to answer back to God? Will what is molded say to its molder, “Why have you made me like this?”

²¹ Has the potter no right over the clay, to make out of the same lump one vessel for honorable use and another for dishonorable use?

Romans 9:19-24

²² What if God, desiring to show his wrath and to make known his power, has endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction,

²³ in order to make known the riches of his glory for vessels of mercy, which he has prepared beforehand for glory—

²⁴ even us whom he has called, not from the Jews only but also from the Gentiles?

1. God's sovereignty does not excuse us from responsibility. (v. 19-21)

- A. God made you and this world, and he has authority over everyone and everything. (Psalm 24:1; Rom. 8:28; Lam. 3:37-38; Acts 1:23-26; Job 36:32, 38:35; Rom. 13:1; Acts 4:27-28)
- B. Regardless of your opinion on predestination, the Bible makes it clear that those who trust Jesus go to Heaven and those who don't go to Hell... because God is in control of eternity. (John 3:16; Eph. 2:8-9; Matt. 7:21-23; Matt. 10:28&32, 13:40-43; Rev. 20:10&15)
- C. We are each responsible for what we do, and especially for what we do with Jesus.

2. The just wrath of God reveals just how merciful He really is. (v. 22-24)

- A. Hell is unimaginable sorrow and regret.
- B. We shouldn't be shocked that Hell exists.
- C. As bad as Hell is, Heaven is infinitely better, and God's wrath serves as a backdrop to display how wonderful His mercy is.

3. God is in control of where you spend eternity, so stop making excuses and simply trust Him.

- A. Heaven is not automatic for anyone without repentance in faith. (from last week's message)**
- B. We mustn't have a "wait and see" attitude.**