

Epistle to the Romans 9:19-33

God's sovereign purpose (9:19-33)

- A. Recompense (19-23)
 - Wrath & Mercy
 - Patience & preparation
- B. Reversal (24-29)
 - Israel & Gentiles
 - Israel & remnant
- C. Righteousness (30-33)
 - By faith or by works?

Components of human religions

- Cosmology: origins and history which explain visible reality.
- Beliefs: supernatural entities & forces which control or disrupt daily life.
- Behavior: social & personal rules which maintain social harmony.
- Rituals: supervised by effective shamans or by qualified clerics.

Throughout biblical history, into the New Testament era, and to this day, human beings have invented religions or distorted “salvation by faith alone” into systems of myths, rituals, and human effort.

¹⁸ So then he has mercy on whomever he chooses, and he hardens the heart of whomever he chooses.

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

- Resist: To oppose power ≈ Eph. 6:13.
- Will: *bouléma*, intention, purpose.

²⁰ But who indeed are you, a human, to argue with God? Will what is molded say to the one who molds it, “Why have you made me like this?” ²¹ Has the potter no right over the clay, to make out of the same lump one object for special use and another for ordinary use?

- Argue: ‘against-from-judge’
- Potter: Yahweh, Isa. 29:16; 64:8

²² What if God, desiring to show his wrath and to make known his power, has endured with much patience the objects of wrath that are made for destruction, ...

- Desire: Sovereign will
- Wrath: Moral judgement
- Power: Able to inflict justice
- Endure: Long-term plan
- Destruction: Creative purpose

²³ and what if he has done so in order to make known the riches of his glory for the objects of mercy, which he has prepared beforehand for glory.

- Known: Self-revealing
- Riches: Amazing abundance
- Mercy: Fulfill needs and purpose
- Prepared: ‘Pre-’, before when?
- Glory: Everlasting life, co-rulers.

²⁴ including us whom he has called, not from the Jews only but also from the gentiles?

- Called: To believe and to obey Jesus.
- Jews: See next slide.
- Gentiles: From all geographic, racial, political, ethnic, language and religious backgrounds.

Who/What is a Jew?

- Racial: Descended from Jacob.
- Historic: Exiles from Judea province.
- Ethnic: Culturally Hebrew, Israelite.
- Religious: Practice Judaism.
- Legal: Adherent to a 'licit' religion.
- Cultural: Self-identifying as Jewish.
- Spiritual: Israelite & Gentile believers.
- Zionist: Privileged Israeli citizens.

Whenever we read or hear the word 'Jew', we should ask, what is its meaning in this context?

²⁵ As he also says in Hosea, "Those who were not my people I will call 'my people,' and her who was not beloved I will call 'beloved.' " [Hos. 2:23] ²⁶ "And in the place where it was said to them, 'You are not my people,' there they shall be called children of the living God." [Hos. 1:10]

- People: 'The great reversal!'
- Children: Adopted into God's family.

²⁷ And Isaiah cries out concerning Israel, "Though the number of the children of Israel were like the sand of the sea, only a remnant of them will be saved," ²⁸ for the Lord will execute his sentence on the earth quickly and decisively."

- Remnant: Faithful, believing minority.
- Earth: 'Land'. See Gen. 12:7

²⁹ And as Isaiah predicted,

"If the Lord of hosts had not left descendants to us,
[then] we would have fared like Sodom and been made like Gomorrah."

- Isaiah: 1.9; 13.19.
- Hosts: Angel armies.
- Descendants: 'Seed' Gen. 12:7; 17:4-5.
- Sodom: Lot & daughters spared.

³⁰ What then are we to say? Gentiles, who did not strive for righteousness, have attained it, that is, righteousness through faith, ³¹ but Israel, who did strive for the law of righteousness, did not attain that law.

- Strive: Lit., 'pursue'.
- Faith: Believe → receive.
- Law: "[Do this] → acquitted".

³² Why not? Because they did not strive for it on the basis of faith but as if it were based on works. They have stumbled over the stumbling stone, ...

- Strive: 'pursue'
- Basis: Ek, 'from'
- Works: Human effort and religion. (See next slide.)
- Stumbled: The 'crux' of the matter.

Which are works? Which are faith?

1. Alms	7. Forgive	13. Preach
2. Believe	8. Giving	14. Repent
3. Charity	9. Hope	15. Sabbath
4. Faith	10. Jihad	16. Services
5. Fasting	11. Mission	17. Study
6. Festivals	12. Pray	18. Trust

³³ as it is written,

“See, I am laying in Zion a stone
that will make people stumble,
a rock that will make them fall,
and whoever trusts in him
will not be put to shame.” [Isa. 28:16 LXX]

- Stone: Heb. *'eben*, feminine noun.
- Trusts: Heb. & Gk., believes, faithful.
- Him: masculine pronoun = LORD God? Messiah Jesus? Both?

Conclusion

- This chapter does not teach pre-determined salvation for elect individuals.
- This chapter explains God’s sovereign right determining how people obtain salvation.
- Thus, people must obtain salvation by remaining faithful to Messiah Jesus.
- People cannot earn salvation by their hard work, ethnic identity, or religious practices.



For next time, please read Romans chapter 10 in any bible version,
and visit our web site at <http://romans.forum>

