

God has the right to do as He wishes with His own creation.

²¹ *Does not the potter have the right to make out of the same lump of clay some pottery for noble purposes and some for common use?*

True worship is being in awe of the greatness of God

Personally—for who He is... His power and “name”
and

Practically—for what He does... His will, purpose, plan

We submit to Him, obey and worship.

The deep and mysterious questions about God and His will must be asked only in a spirit of humble submission.

Every person who receives God’s mercy must be certain to rightly respond.

Every “lump of clay” has an obligation to willingly be shaped by the Potter – for the Potter’s purpose.

Can you feel the hands of “The Potter”—shaping you?

The Potter and the Clay

Romans 9:14-21

The challenge of Romans 9-11...

Paul’s great sorrow—and “Has God’s word failed?”

God is accomplishing what He promised, but in different ways than what people thought He would.

It was always God’s purpose to have “children of the promise.”

Question: Is God unjust? (14)

¹⁴ *What then shall we say? Is God unjust? Not at all!*

Is God “unjust” because He chooses to bless some more than others?

God is just in giving mercy to whoever He wills. (15-16)

¹⁵ *For he says to Moses, “I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.”*

¹⁶ *It does not, therefore, depend on man’s desire or effort, but on God’s mercy.*

God is just in revealing His power and glory by showing mercy – or hardening—whoever He wills. (17-18)

¹⁷ *For the Scripture says to Pharaoh: “I raised you up for this very purpose, that I might display my power in you and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth.”* ¹⁸ *Therefore God has mercy on whom he wants to have mercy, and he hardens whom he wants to harden.*

God “raised up” Pharaoh—putting him into power—for the purpose of demonstrating His own “power” and “name” to the world.

And I will harden Pharaoh’s heart, and he will pursue them. But I will gain glory for myself through Pharaoh and all his army, and the Egyptians will know that I am the LORD.” (Exodus 14:4)

Question: Is man responsible —if God is sovereign?

¹⁹ *One of you will say to me: “Then why does God still blame us? For who resists his will?”*

Who is man... to talk back to God?

²⁰ *But who are you, O man, to talk back to God?*

GOD

MAN

Between God and man—God is the one who has the rights.

Does the creature have a right to accuse the Creator?

“Shall what is formed say to him who formed it, ‘Why did you make me like this?’