

Romans

Lesson 11: Romans 9:14–33

We live in a postmodern society where authority figures are questioned, challenged, and even disrespected over decisions they make. This postmodern thinking has led many to reject authority because they have their own thoughts about right and wrong, and fairness and justice. It is difficult for these people to think that there could be someone in this universe who has unquestionable and absolute authority. Even if someone does conclude that there is an absolute authority, many still think it is reasonable and justifiable to question that authority. Some are even bold enough to shake a fist in the face of that authority. This thinking is not a result of postmodernism but is a result of the fallenness of mankind. Paul dealt with it in his day as he wrote to the Roman believers. In this passage, Paul continues to argue that Israel's disbelief is all a part of God's sovereign plan of redemption. He addresses the absolute authority and sovereignty of God as He puts His wrath, power, and glory on display through His mercy in the redemption of sinners. Let's dive in and see what Paul has to say to those who may be tempted to question God's absolute authority in His plan of redemption.

➤ **Read Romans 9:14–18**

1. In verse 14, after describing God's election in verses 6–13, what does Paul anticipate people will conclude about God? What is his answer to them?
2. In verse 15, Paul quotes Exodus 33:19. What did God say to Moses?
3. In verse 16, what is the basis of a person receiving mercy from God?

Application: Think about someone you have shown mercy to? Why did you choose to show them mercy? How is that different from God's mercy?

4. In verse 17, what are the two reasons God raise up Pharaoh?

5. In verse 18, what does Paul conclude about the doctrine of election?
6. Read Exodus 2:11–14 and 5:15–18. In Romans 9:14–18, what two men does Paul use to illustrate God’s sovereignty? Which one was more righteous in man’s eyes? Which one did God choose?

Application: What are ways you have seen people harden their heart toward God? How can you make sure your heart is not hardened?

➤ **Read Romans 9:19–29**

7. Read verse 19. How would you rephrase Paul’s questions in your own words?
8. In verse 20, what illustration does Paul use in his answer?
9. In verse 21, what are the two “uses” Paul describes?
10. God determined to allow sin in this world, although He is not the author or source of sin. In verse 22, what two reasons did God determine to allow sin in the world?
11. In verse 22, how has God acted toward a world of sinners?

12. In verse 23, what does God make known through His mercy to believers?
13. In verse 24, how does Paul describe “us”?
14. In verses 25–26, Paul quotes from Hosea to show Israel’s rejection has always been a part of God’s redemptive plan. Today, Israel has rejected their Messiah. Who is now included in God’s plan and called “My people”? (hint: see v. 24)
15. According to verse 26, what will God do to Israel in the future?
16. In verses 27–29, Paul quotes from Isaiah regarding Israel. What will God do for Israel?
17. According to verse 29, if it wasn’t for God intervening and saving Israel, how would they have ended up?

Application: God is a God of promises. How does the promise of God’s future redemption of Israel give you hope?

➤ **Read Romans 9:30–33**

18. According to verse 30, how have the Gentiles attained righteousness?

19. According to verses 31–32, why did Israel not attain righteousness?

20. According to verse 33, how did Israel treat Christ when He came the first time?

21. In verse 33, what is the promise to those who come to Christ by faith?

Application: What have you learned about God’s election of sinners in His plan of redemption? Do you believe it? Why?

Application: Why has the doctrine of election become so hard for people to accept today? How can you encourage someone with this doctrine?

Application: What one verse impacted you the most in this study? Explain.