

**Romans 9:14-33**  
**New Covenant Presbyterian Sunday School**  
**March 12, 2023**

**WSC Question 74:** What is required in the eighth commandment?

**Answer:** The eighth commandment requireth the lawful procuring and furthering the wealth and outward estate of ourselves and others.

**Introduction:**

- The main theme of Romans is the righteousness of God
- Romans 9-11 is not primarily about Israel, but about the integrity of God
- The early church is primarily made up of Gentiles and few Jews
- Paul wants to show that his gospel is in line with the OT
- God's Word and promises to Israel have not failed

**I. Is God Unjust? (v.14)**

- A. Paul pauses to address some anticipated questions
- B. His main argument picks up again in v. 24

**DQ: What standard can we use when asking if God is unjust?**

- C. Paul answers his question by quoting the OT twice and drawing conclusions
- D. He shows two sides to God's sovereign decision making
  - 1. Mercy- v. 15-16
    - a) Ex. 33:19
    - b) God's mercy cannot be earned by humans
  - 2. Hardening- v. 17-18
    - a) Ex. 9:16
    - b) As God has mercy on whom he wants, he hardens whom he wants

**DQ: Do these verses teach "double predestination"?**

**II. How Can God Still Blame People? (v.19)**

- A. Paul does not try to give us a logical explanation
  - 1. He answers a question with a question (v. 20)
  - 2. The potter and clay analogy (v. 20-21)

- 3. The creature has no right to question the creator
- B. Paul's purpose is not to explain how God's sovereignty and human responsibility coexist
- C. His primary issue is to show God's freedom in creating a people for Himself by accepting some and rejecting others.

**DQ: Why does Paul not try to explain how people can be legitimately blamed for what God decides they will do?**

- D. God desires to make known His glory to the objects of His mercy (v. 23)
- E. God's sovereign calling (v.24)
  - 1. Paul returns to the main theme of verses 9:6-13
    - a) These verses focused on the patriarchs
    - b) Paul wants to show that the prophets and patriarchs agree on God's sovereign calling
    - c) The gentiles are included by God's sovereign election
- F. V.24-29 Paul quotes the prophetic predictions from the OT to prove his point
  - 1. Hosea 2:23, 1:10
    - a) Hosea's prediction happened through the preaching of the gospel
    - b) Paul does not seem to quote the OT here in keeping with its original meaning
    - c) Hosea was predicting the return of the Northern tribes not conversion of gentiles

**DQ: How does Paul determine that this text applies to Gentiles?**

- 2. Isaiah 10:22-23
  - a) References a "remnant" in Israel
  - b) The prophets saw that not all of Israel would be saved

### **III. What Shall We Say Then? (v. 30)**

- A. That God's Word and promises have not failed
- B. Righteousness comes by faith and not obedience to law
- C. Jesus our righteousness is the stumbling stone

*Douglas Moo, Encountering the Book of Romans (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2002, 2014.)*  
*Leon Morris, The Epistle to the Romans, The Pillar New Testament Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI; Leicester, England: W.B. Eerdmans; Inter-Varsity Press, 1988.)*