

**Riverview Baptist Church Wednesday Night Class:
A Study in the Book of Romans – Lesson 9b**

Chapters 9-11 can be viewed as:

Romans 9 – God’s past dealings with Israel.

Romans 10 – God’s present dealings with Israel.

Romans 11 – God’s future dealings with Israel.

Romans 9:19-21 – Here Paul answers an anticipated question from his readers? If God can do whatever He pleases, then does this lead to _____ (the belief that all events are predetermined and therefore inevitable)? In other words, does God’s omniscience cause all things to happen?

Another potential way of looking at this verse (9:19) is to question God’s _____ in using Pharaoh for His purposes and still hold him accountable?

Paul did not answer the question with a detailed answer, but rather he offers a rebuke for even asking such a question! He uses the example of a potter and the lump of clay he uses to make a vessel.

Does the lump of clay say to the potter, “Why did you make as this pot?” Can the lump of clay even ask a question of the potter to start with? The potter has the authority to make the lump of clay into whatever the potter desires. He can take the same lump and make two _____ pots for his different uses

God reaches into the same lump of humanity and fashions people for His purposes! This is an interesting illustration considering the fact that God formed Adam out of the _____ (Gen. 2:7).

I like this quote from J. Vernon McGee: “Human reasoning is not the answer to the problem. The answer is found only in the mystery and majesty of God’s sovereignty. Faith leaves it there and accepts it in humble obedience. Unbelief rebels against it and continues under the very wrath and judgment of the God it questions.”¹

Romans 9:22-24 – God’s patience with the unsaved.

Paul has already shown that God is sovereign in how He uses humanity. God is also sovereign in how He is patient in withholding his _____ or judgment on those who refuse to turn to Him. God would be righteous to immediately judge _____. However, He endures those who are in rebellion (Acts 14:16; Rom. 3:25). Why?

God in His sovereignty gave man the ability to _____ to obey or disobey. God is willing for all to come to salvation (2 Peter 3:9), but most are unwilling (Matt. 7:13-14; Matt. 23:37 – Israel). God gives ample time for unbelievers to become believers! Until they do, the wrath of God abides on them (John 3:36).

Consider what Jesus said in John 3:18 and 3:36. Judgment is something that _____ on the unsaved. Eternal life becomes a _____ possession the moment of salvation.

¹ J. Vernon McGee, *Through the Bible with J. Vernon McGee: Vol. IV Matthew-Romans* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1983), 714.

God demonstrates His _____ or wrath on those who are unsaved and He demonstrates His _____ on the saved. God works in both to accomplish His purposes.

Paul interjects in the middle of this context on Israel that God's sovereignty has always included Jews and Gentiles. The "us" in 9:24 is a reference to Paul and the believers in Rome. Remember that this is the argument that Paul as presented in the first eight chapters of the book!

Romans 9:25-29 – Paul quotes the Old Testament!

Paul then uses the Old Testament to indicate that throughout Israel's history, God has always had a _____ of saved Israelites and _____.

Hosea 2:23 is a reference to the restoration of Israel (Rom. 9:25). Compare with Hosea 1:6. Hosea 1:10 is a reference to those who are not Israel, the Gentiles, would also have a remnant to turn to God and become "God's people" (Rom. 9:26).

In Romans 9:27-29, Paul is expressing directly that there will always be a remnant of saved Israelites. Here Paul quotes from the Septuagint Isaiah 10:22-23 and Isaiah 1:9.

What idea was Paul expressing at the beginning of this chapter? The salvation of Paul's _____, the Jews! There will always be a Jewish remnant!

What Isaiah and Paul were demonstrating was God's _____. Without it, the nation would have followed after Sodom and Gamorrah.

Paul then poses another question in 9:30. What can be said about the reality of Gentiles coming to salvation? The Gentiles without being willing (pursuing) or working (the Law) came to faith! How? God worked (on the Cross) and God willed that it would come to pass (OT prophecies). Gentile salvation through _____ was a reality then and now.

What about Israel? They pursued the Law, but did not find righteousness. What was missing according to 9:32? _____. The Jews (at least most of them), stumbled over the stumbling Stone, the Messiah (9:33).