

February 16, 2025

“Sovereignty of God: Part Two” Romans 9:19-33

Vol.15 Num. 7

Using This Study

❶ EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

❷ EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

❸ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.



We have come to the half-way point in our study of Romans. Throughout his letter, Paul has described God’s promise of salvation to all who believe in Jesus Christ. He has addressed many issues in his letter and now responds to another...Israel’s spiritual history. In **Chapters 9-11**, Paul explains why God has “*set aside*” Israel and His “*future-plans*” for the nation.

This week, we continue our discussion of **Chapter 9**. Last week, in **Verses 1-18**, we saw a personal and somber account of Paul’s burden for his fellow Jews for having rejected Jesus as their Messiah. His sorrow and anguish were so severe that he stated “*I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers,*”

In this lesson, **Verses 19-33**, we learn that no one can resist God’s will even if it seems unjust. Israel’s rejection of Christ was foreseen in God’s providence and yet was part of His plan. Why? So, Gentiles could be brought into God’s family through faith in Christ.

What evidence do you have of God’s sovereignty in your life that resulted in your salvation? Have you ever thanked Him for it?



Romans 9:19-33 – ESV

God's Sovereign Choice

¹⁹ You will say to me then, “Why does he still find fault? For who can resist his will?” ²⁰ But who are you, O man, to answer back to God? Will what is molded say to its molder, “*Why have you made me like this?*” ²¹ Has the potter no right over the clay, to make out of the same lump one vessel for honorable use and another for dishonorable use? ²² What if God, desiring to show his wrath and to make known his power, has endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, ²³ in order to make known the riches of his glory for vessels of mercy, which he has prepared beforehand for glory— ²⁴ even us whom he has called, not from the Jews only but also from the Gentiles?

²⁵ As indeed he says in Hosea, “*Those who were not my people I will call ‘my people,’ and her who was not beloved I will call ‘beloved.’*”

²⁶ “And in the very place where it was said to them, ‘*You are not my people,*’ there they will be called ‘*sons of the living God.*’”

²⁷ And Isaiah cries out concerning Israel: “*Though the number of the sons of Israel be as the sand of the sea, only a remnant of them will be saved,* ²⁸ *for the Lord will carry out his sentence upon the earth fully and without delay.*”

²⁹ And as Isaiah predicted, “*If the Lord of hosts had not left us offspring, we would have been like Sodom and become like Gomorrah.*”

Israel's Unbelief

³⁰ What shall we say, then? That Gentiles who did not pursue righteousness have attained it, that is, a righteousness that is by faith; ³¹ but that Israel who pursued a law that would lead to righteousness did not succeed in reaching that law. ³² Why? Because they did not pursue it by faith, but as if it were based on works. They have stumbled over the stumbling stone, ³³ as it is written, “*Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.*”

● EXAMINE His Word (Observation) (For personal preparation)

What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details from this passage.

Make 10 of your own observations from these passages. Avoid jumping to make interpretive decisions or drawing applications. Save those for the sections that follow. At this point just observe this passage and what it says. Look for things that are emphasized, repeated, and what stands out to you. Look at the verbs, what actions are in the text? Who is involved in the text? There is no right or wrong answer, just list 10 things you see in the text.

1.

2.

3.

- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

② **EXPLORE His Word (Interpretation)** (For Community Group discussion)
What does God MEAN?

Optional

Read **Romans 9:17-18** along with **Exodus 7:13, 22; 8:15, 32; 9:7, 34-35** (Pharaoh's own disposition) and **Exodus 7:3; 9:12; 10:1, 20, 27; 11:10; 14:4, 8, 17** (God's role in the hardening). Either circle, highlight or underline the word "hardened" in your Bible. What do you think that word means? What was God's purpose in "hardening" Pharaoh's heart?

For this week's lesson

1. In **Verse 19**, do you think you have ever resisted God's will for your life? Explain.
2. In **Verses 20-21**, and along with **Isaiah 29:16; 45:9; 64:8** and **Jeremiah 18:4-6** what right do we have to question God's motives and purposes?

3. In **Verses 23-24**, summarize what you think Paul is trying to say. What is God's ultimate purpose in displaying His mercy and wrath? Who do you think the word "us" is referring to?

4. In **Verses 25-26**, Paul quotes from the prophet Hosea. Who is Hosea speaking about?

5. In **Verses 27-29**, Paul quotes from the prophet Isaiah. Who is he referring to?

6. In **Verse 30**, how did Gentiles obtain "*righteousness*"?

7. In **Verses 31-32** how did Israel attempt to obtain "*righteousness*"?

8. In **Verse 33**, Paul gives additional quotes from **Isaiah 8:14; 28:16**. What point is he making?

③ **EMBRACE His Word (Application)** (For Community Group discussion)
Why does this MATTER to me?

9. Why do we tend to question God's actions toward us or someone else?

10. How do you reconcile the difference between "*self-determination*" and "*God' will.*"?

11. In ten words or less, suggest what you think **Romans 9:19-33** is saying.

Summarize your thoughts on the passage

Write about what God wants you to **KNOW**, to **FEEL**, and to **DO**...

Sermon Outline and Notes