

Studies In Romans

(Romans 9:14-21)

1. Is there unrighteousness with God?

“God forbid”: *“What shall we say then? Is there unrighteousness with God? God forbid”* (**Romans 9:14**).

- **Deuteronomy 32:4, Job 34:10-12, Psalms 145:17, Romans 2:5, II Thessalonians 1:3-6, and II Timothy 4:8.**

2. Who decides whom God will show mercy and compassion to?

He does: *“For he saith to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion”* (**Romans 9:15**).

- **Exodus 33:19, Exodus 34:6-7, Psalms 145:8, Micah 7:18, I Timothy 1:12-16, and I Peter 1:3; cf. Romans 2:4.**
- Really, though God is the extender of mercy, He has given us the ability to have a big part in His decision of whom will get mercy (**Hebrews 10:26-31**).

3. Can you will God’s mercy upon someone?

No: *“So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy”* (**Romans 9:16**).

- **Isaiah 65:1, John 1:12-13, Ephesians 2:1-10, and Titus 3:3-5.**

4. Did God have a purpose in Pharaoh?

Yes: *“(17) For the scripture saith unto Pharaoh, Even for this same purpose have I raised thee up, that I might shew my power in thee, and that my name might be declared throughout all the earth. (18) Therefore hath he mercy on whom he will have mercy, and whom he will he hardeneth”* (**Romans 9:17-18**).

- There is a purpose in Scriptures (**Galatians 3:8**).
- God purposed things at times and in men or women to bring about His cause (**Isaiah 10:5-6, Isaiah 45:1-3, Jeremiah 27:6-7, Daniel 5:18-21, and Acts 23:1-11**).
- The purpose in what He did to Pharaoh was to show His power and it be declared everywhere (**Exodus 10:1-2, Exodus 14:17-18, and Joshua 2:1-10**).
- The word of God, purposed by the Lord, hardens some people (**Acts 28:26-28 and II Thessalonians 2:10-12**).
- That does not mean that God chooses who has a hardened heart - we have the choice to open our hearts or have them hardened (**Deuteronomy 5:29, Deuteronomy 30:15-20, Joshua 24:14-16, Matthew 10:22, Luke 8:4-15, John 8:31, Acts 2:40-41, and Hebrews 3:6-14**).

5. What would some question God about when they realize mercy is in His control?
“Thou wilt say then unto me, Why doth he yet find fault? For who hath resisted his will” (Romans 9:19)?

- The fact that God knows something is going to happen does not make Him unjust in holding those accountable who do it (**Acts 2:23-38**).
- God foreknows everything (**Isaiah 42:9, Isaiah 46:9-10, Jeremiah 1:5, and Acts 15:17-18**).
- God finds fault when men choose not to do what is right (**Ezekiel 18:30, Matthew 12:37, and Revelation 2:23**).

6. Does God view our questioning Him as a good thing?

No, He basically asks who we are to question Him: *“Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, Why hast thou made me thus” (Romans 9:20)?*

- **Job 33:13, Job 38:1-3, Job 40:1-8, Jeremiah 18:1-10, and I Corinthians 10:22.**
- Even servants among men should recognize their place (**Titus 2:9**).
- Some people have a hard time realizing their place in life (**Romans 1:20-23**).
- We need to be humble enough to know our place (**James 4:6-10 and I Peter 5:5-6; cf. Jeremiah 44:9-14 and Colossians 3:12**).
- We have to understand that our own ideas aren't always (or even mostly) right (**Proverbs 3:5-7, Proverbs 23:4, Isaiah 5:21, and Galatians 6:3**).

7. What point is God making in regard to the potter and the clay?

That the potter can do whatever He wants to or with the clay: *“Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour” (Romans 9:21)?*

- **Proverbs 16:4, Ecclesiastes 12:13-14, Isaiah 65:8, Jeremiah 18:3-6, and Revelation 4:11.**
- In regard to vessels of honor and dishonor, again, we must understand that because both come from the same lump it is not God forcing that to occur (**II Timothy 2:20-21**).