

First Southern Baptist Church - April 19, 2023
Is There Unrighteousness with God? - Rom. 9:14-33

Introduction:

1. This is about **Israel** - not being saved
2. It *is* about who may be saved
3. He is concerned about the **nation of Israel**
 - check out how he starts the chapter
 - 9:1-3 - I wish I could be cursed for my kinsmen (**Israel**) according to the flesh
 - 10:1-2 - my kinsmen (**Israel**) have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge
 - 11:1ff - He shows how Israel (**nation**) will be gathered in
4. By quoting the scripture he is showing that this is God's eternal plan
5. It is very clear *who* may be saved - "whosoever" - Romans 10:11, 13

I. Is God Unrighteous? (14-26)

1. Deals with an obvious question (14)
 - A. Why would anyone think God unrighteous?
 - 1) He is casting off the Jews - His chosen - *that's not right*
 - 2) He is bringing in the corrupt Gentiles - *that's not right*
 - 3) if He loved Jacob and hated Esau before they were born - *that's not right* (13)
 - B. God forbid!
2. On a larger scale God may do whatever He wills (15)
 - A. Consider Moses - I will have mercy on whom I will
 - B. "Mercy" is up to God (16)
 - it is not a matter of how we live
 - to give mercy to those who earned it would mean that it was not mercy but a "right"
 - C. Quotes the scripture (17)
 - 1) He raised up Pharaoh to show His power/ name (Ex. 9:16)
 - 2) He had mercy on whomever He wanted to - or not
 - the powers that be are "ordained" of God (Romans 13)
 - 3) He also has the right to "harden" whomever He will (18)
 - 4) God actually furthered His purpose by raising up Pharaoh
 - by the Jews refusing the gospel, it furthered God's purpose to reach out to the Gentiles
3. You're going to answer... then He cannot find fault - after all He did this (19)
 - this is not fair - for God to hold a man responsible after He has hardened his heart
 - that is just not right*
 - A. Who do you think you are that you can reply to God? (20)
 - talk back to God
 - B. The thing made may not "talk back" to it's maker
 - C. The potter has power over the clay (21)
 - an illustration of God's sovereign will

-but note... it is not *destruction but design* - He designed one for honor (to house an orchid)

-He designed the other for another *use* - to be a spit bucket

-the words used in the text have to do with use - honorable use vs dishonorable use (not salvation)

D. What if He endures with one in a way He does not endure with another (22)

And - in so doing shows His infinite mercy (23)

Note the word “vessels” - a thing of use

E. He applies the principle - “even us” the Jews/ and the Gentiles (24-26)

-so that... in a place where there were not “His people” they have become “His people” - among the Gentiles

-so the whole idea is that God is “just” to allow in the Gentiles

II. Isaiah Said/ Cried (27-33)

1. Israel is cut off... **right now** - but a remnant will be saved (27)

-what will God do with Israel - check it out in chapter 9 - He will bring them again - He will gather them

-He quotes Isaiah... showing that this is a part of God’s eternal plan - this is the way it was supposed to be... this is God’s intention all along

A. He will finish the work - make short work of it (28)

B. If He hadn’t left a seed, we would all be lost (29)

-like Sodom and Gomorrah

2. So then... the Gentiles (30)

!!).

What Irony!

A. Those who did not seek righteousness

-they had no concern for righteousness

B. These very people have found it - what?

C. They found it by faith

3. But Israel... (31)

A. They followed the law of righteousness - they did not find it

B. Why? - because they did not seek it through faith

1) they sought it not by faith (32)

2) they sought it by works

3) they stumbled at this rock of offense - “stumbling stone”

4. Jesus is that stumbling stone (33)

A. As it is written - Is. 8:14

-fulfilled at 1 Peter 2:6-8

B. Believing on Him saves us

-implied... not works of the law

C. Therefore, He is not just saving Israel because they are the nation - it is not a racial thing

-He saves by faith (32)

The supreme irony - they “trip” over the very thing that could save them

He has always saved by faith - Eph. 2:8-9

1. In the Old Testament they were saved by faith... they had faith (and obeyed, because of

it) that God would forgive them if they brought an animal (the animal then stood for Jesus now)

Other Examples

A. Israelites leave Egypt - by faith - they are saved

B. Noah's day - get on the boat - by faith - they are saved

C. Passover - put blood on the doorposts, by faith - they are saved

2. In the New Testament we have faith... that God will save as we put faith in His way (Jesus)

3. And... obedience demonstrates that we have faith, - that it is real!