

## **God is Sovereign in Salvation, part 2**

### **Romans 9:17-33**

***Romans 9 speaks of God's ability to work in the human heart.***

Be encouraged. No matter what condition your heart is in today, God offers to you, spiritual and emotional growth. If you have a family member or friend whose heart is far from God, be encouraged to know that God can change a person's heart. Keep praying.

In our section in Romans 9, there is a contrast between Moses and Pharaoh.

God raised up Moses and worked in his life.

God raised up Pharaoh and worked in his life as well.

God had very different purposes for these two men and this can be seen in two very different outcomes.

Christian author and pastor, Tim Keller:

***God hardens those He wants to harden. And all those whom He hardens want to be hardened.***

The grace and mercy that God extended to Israel did not put hardness in Pharaoh's heart so that he thought, said, believed and did things that he didn't really want to do. God's grace and mercy shown to Israel also served to shine a light on Pharaoh's evil heart...did not create the evil heart but revealed what was already there.

What Paul is teaching us here in Romans 9, if properly understood, leads to humility. God's sovereign election is a pride-crushing doctrine. Salvation is not based on human merit.

The hard part of Romans 9 and divine election: God had His purposes for crafting objects of noble and common use. There is a purpose behind these choices. *God wants to make the riches of His glory known to the objects of His mercy.*

Glory needs no negative frame of reference. This is not a comparison. The display of wrath is a revelation of what we are saved from. Salvation is not something we would delight in if there was nothing to be saved from. Salvation that is not necessary does not glorify God.

### **Home Group Discussion Questions:**

Read Romans 9:17-33

1. What does this passage say about people?
  
2. What does this passage say about God's mercy?
  
3. How has God shown you mercy and compassion in your salvation and sanctification?
  
4. Why do you not have a right to talk back to God (Romans 9:19–21)? Where is the proper balance between telling God everything you feel and honoring Him as the sovereign King of the universe?
  
5. Do you see any practical benefits of Romans 9?