

Sermon Notes – “God’s Mercy Continues Whether Believed or Not” - Romans 9:1-24

I. Paul’s Anguish Over Unbelieving Jews (9:1-5)

A. The question comes at the point of declaring the great love God has for all through Christ Jesus in chapter 8. (For instance, 8:37-39)

B. If such is God’s love and mercy, why have so many of the descendants of Abraham not believed, rejected, and even persecuted the Gospel of Jesus?

C. Not all Israelites by natural birth are God’s saved Israelites by faith in Christ.  
- An application: Not all born into Christian families and communities show the faith of Christianity.

II. God’s Word and Mercy Do Not Fail

A. Is God weak or unreliable or cruel? Why unbelievers?  
(Theodicy: \_\_\_\_\_ God)

B. The Word of God has not failed! (9:6-13)  
- God kept His promise to Abraham and his descendants despite the weaknesses in humans. (Whether natural or moral or other weaknesses)

9:11-12 11 though they were not yet born and had done nothing either good or bad—in order that God's purpose of election might continue, not because of works but because of him who calls— 12 she was told, “The older will serve the younger.”

- Despite the problems in each family, God kept His promise going. His Word does not fail.

C. God’s Mercy is Available Even If It Is Rejected.

9:16-18 16 So then it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy. 17 For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, “For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I might show my power in you, and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth.” 18 So then he has mercy on whomever he wills, and he hardens whomever he wills.

- Pharaoh rejected Moses’ message from the LORD God for his own life and own actions. (Plagues 1-5 Pharaoh hardened his heart; plagues 6-10 the LORD hardened Pharaoh’s heart.)

- Yet the LORD God saved many others, both Israelites and Egyptians, through Pharaoh’s earthly power, even if Pharaoh himself rejected God.

- God raised up Pharaoh to show mercy, in one way or another.

- God’s offers His mercy even when humans deny and reject it.

III. God Calls Us to Be His Vessels (“creations”) of Mercy (9:19-24)

A. The clay cannot say to the potter, “you did a bad job on me.”  
Did God make a mistake creating Adam and Eve, was all “not good”?

B. God has formed us. Whatever the situation He has put us in, He calls us to be vessels for His mercy. His mercy to us, and for others.

- God will use vessels destined for destruction too, but His will is that every person repent and believe, so to be a vessel of mercy.

Give thanks to God for His Word and Mercy.

Satan’s tempts us to judge God like Adam and Eve, and all their descendants, are tempted. But resist temptation to judge God, and hear the LORD God calling us to receive His mercy.