

Now Paul anticipates the objections he would expect from any self righteous, reasoning religious person. A person like the Pharisee Paul was before he was called by the Lord of glory on the road to Damascus. His response calls out the unquestionable sovereignty (and goodness) of God.

God is sovereign because He is Creator.

But because of that fundamental truth there are some jaw dropping, mouth stopping statements to consider.

- ★ God has the authority and power in Himself to create a creature any way He desires like a potter molds the same lump of clay into vessels for differing uses. One might be a garbage container and another a beautiful vase. One for honor the other for dishonor. The question asked does not prove that He actually does create a person intended to be condemned by His making to judgement and destruction. But Paul establishes God's absolute, infinite sovereignty to do so without question or rebuke from any of His created beings. What insolence and arrogance to even think "why hast thou made me so?"
- ★ One cannot attempt to deny God's right to find fault with a disobedient sinner by blaming God for making him to be a sinner. We all are born in sin and shaped in iniquity due to Adam's sin, Romans 5:12, Psalm 51:5. We all have subsequently sinned. Sinners though ultimately lost are blessed while alive in that He, knowing their outcome, created them anyway and gave all of us good things including the witness of His nature and divinity in His Creation, Romans 1:20. Many were given an even greater witness of His love for sinners in hearing the gospel of the Cross. All are blessed by God freely offering them the degree of light calculated to draw them to Him. He is glorified by that act of profound love, even if many are too proud to avail themselves of it, 2Corinthians 2:15-16.
- ★ God sovereignly, but not callously, uses rebel sinners to carry out some of His purposes, all the while leaving the door open and actively pursuing their repentance.
- ★ God sovereignly, mercifully prepares some for glory. Thank you Father!
- ★ God has sovereignly called some among both Jews and Gentiles.
- ★ God now calls individuals, both Jews and Gentiles, on the same basis independently of their human heritage, national roots and national promises.
- ★ God predicted this undeserved special calling presented in the Old Testament prophets, examples of which Paul cites here. (Twice Hosea, 1:10 & 2:23; and three in Isaiah, 1:9; 28:22; & 10:22-23.) Actually

these callings were callings back to God from previous national departure and consequent disciplinary separation from God because of their unfaithfulness and idolatry. What loving kindness.

Paul sums up in vv 30-33.

- ★ Selected Gentiles, though unrighteous, have attained a status of righteousness before God. How? By faith. And this without the benefit of God's revealed Law.
- ★ The children of Israel, on the other hand, have nationally missed the mark. Why? Because they could not keep the Law given them by their choice at Sinai, Exodus 19 & 20. Why so? Because they chose to seek God's blessing through works instead of receiving the promises by faith.

After many centuries Israel finally stumbled. God's patient endurance of Israel's repeated failures under the Law and His merciful interventions and gracious revivals, His faithful disciplinary actions and the additional resources He provided toward their success, are well known and documented in Scripture. But they stumbled over "the stumbling stone," Christ, their promised Messiah. The One whom had they received and believed they would have shortly been exalted to be head of the nations under Him. But they didn't. Now all are living in a long intermission, wearing on to almost 20 centuries of their stubborn national resistance to Jesus their Christ. They are still antichrist. Meanwhile He is patiently awaiting the postponed fulfilment of the Old Testament promises and prophecies concerning Him.

But even now, "Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed, (confounded). Wow!!! Even though Israel's promised national blessings have been postponed, individual Jews (and Gentiles) can believe on Him and be saved. What grace! And these (we) inherit a much richer heavenly hope and destiny as part of the church, Christ's Bride, than ever imagined by Old Testament saints. And we shall reign with Him over the earth. Glory to God!

Note that God's patient dealing with Israel illustrates His same attitude toward sinners today. He endures their rebellious activities while seeking their trust, their hearts in repentance for their sins.,

Have you believed on Him – personally put your trust in Him for your eternal destiny? Are you enjoying the present blessings that accompany salvation even now while we are still on earth? Embracing the anticipation of it as a bride awaiting her Bridegroom?

Next we will find Paul's continuing exaltation of God in anticipation of disrespectful backtalk from prideful man.