

Romans 9:19-33

March 23, 2022

This chapter, like much of the book of Hebrews, uses the history of the Jews from the Old Testament to illuminate the truths of the gospel found in the new covenant. Some of those truths are:

- God's choices are sovereign and do not depend on merit.
- Salvation is and always has been through faith, not through compliance with the law.
- Salvation is not inherited through one's bloodlines.
- Without God's grace, not even a remnant of humanity would be saved.
- God's justice and righteousness are without flaw and do not admit complaint from humans.
- God shows and has always shown great patience and forbearance toward sinners.
- God always fulfills His promises.

"For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope" (Rom. 15:4)

Questions:

1. What exactly is the question/complaint in verse 19? What is the answer?
2. What is represented by the two types of vessels in verse 21-23? (Is it the same as in 2 Tim. 2:20-21?)
3. Verse 23 tells us that God prepared vessels of mercy beforehand. But verse 22 is in the passive voice – it merely says the vessels are prepared for destruction, not by whom. Is this significant and how?
4. The original quotations from Hosea 2:23 (v. 25) and 1:10 (v. 26) referred to the Jewish nation. Whom do they speak of here?

5. Read the quotations from Isaiah 10:22-23 (vs. 27-28) and 1:9 (v. 29) in context. What did they mean for the Israelites? What do they tell us about God's plans for all mankind?
6. How do verses 30-32 connect to verse 16?
7. Who or what is the stumbling stone of verses 32-33? Why a stumbling stone?