

VESSELS OF WRATH AND VESSELS OF MERCY

(PART II)

Romans 9:14-24

I. God's Mercy and God's Hardening – vs. 18

Mercy: compassion or forgiveness shown toward someone
whom it is within one's power to punish or harm

John 6:44

Titus 3:4-5

Sklēryñō - to make hard, harden; to make stubborn, to make
obstinate

Acts 1:15-20

John 6:70-71

II. “That’s not Fair” – vs. 19

Joshua 11:18-20

Romans 11:7

Romans 9:18

III. Who Do You Think You Are? – vs. 20

Antapokrínomai - to contradict in reply, to answer by
contradiction, reply against

Job 38:1-5, 40:1-8, 42:1-6

IV. The Potter and the Clay – vs. 21

Isaiah 64:6-8

Jeremiah 18:3-6

"Mere human reason can never comprehend how God is good and merciful and therefore you make to yourself a God of your own fancy who hardens nobody, condemns nobody and pities everybody. You cannot comprehend how a just God can condemn those who are born in sin and cannot help themselves but must by a necessity of their natural constitution continue in sin and remain children of wrath. The answer is God is incomprehensible throughout and therefore His justice as well as His other attributes must be incomprehensible. It is on this very ground that St. Paul exclaims, 'O the depth of the riches of the knowledge of God, how unsearchable are His judgments and His ways...listen...passed finding out. Now, His judgments would not be passed finding out if we could always perceive them to be just.'" – *Luther to Erasmus*

V. Vessels of Wrath and Vessels of Mercy – vs. 22-24

Thélō - to will, have in mind, intend; to be resolved or determined, to purpose

Acts 5:1-11

2 Thessalonians 1:6-10

Ezekiel 18:30-32, 33:11

Proverbs 1:20-33

Titus 3:3-7

Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-14, 18-20
2:4-7

2 Peter 3:14-16

Closing Thought: God is completely sovereign over salvation. He has every right to mold all of His creation any way that He chooses; some vessels are prepared for wrath, and some receive His mercy. Yet, unrepentant sinners are completely accountable for their rejection of Christ, and, we mustn't talk back to God claiming this is unfair. What if God does all that He does concerning unrepentant sinners, so that, His chosen people are humbled by His mercy? It is all about His power, His wrath, His mercy. It is all about Him!