

MOOREBANK – HAMMONDVILLE ANGLICAN CHURCHES

SERMON OUTLINE – 7 May 2017

Romans 9:17 - 29 ~ Understanding God's purposes

A word of personal testimony...

1. God's sovereign judgement – the flip side of salvation – 9:17-18

- Pharaoh and his hardened heart – twenty references!
- God's gift of mercy and his hardening don't 'balance' each other:
 - God's mercy is given to those who don't deserve it; it changes a person's state
 - God's hardening affects those who are already in rebellion; it hands a person over to the consequences of the state they are already in.

2. God's purposes in salvation and judgement – 9:22-23

- God wanted to display more gloriously his power and wrath v22a
- God wanted to make known his glorious riches to vessels of mercy - v23

3. The God who judges and yet rescues from the same – 9:24-29

- Is your vision of God too small?
- Objects of wrath who become objects of mercy
- Acts 26:18

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QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION OR REFLECTION

Romans 9:17 – 29

1. In Romans 9:14 Paul anticipates a question that naturally arises from his argument. How would you summarise his argument in Romans 9:6b-13?
2. What are the two examples that Paul gives to prove his statement in v14?
 - a. V15-16?
 - b. V17-18?
3. Consider v15-16 where Paul quotes God's words from Exodus 33:19. What major disaster has recently happened? What do we learn about Israel?
4. Consider v17-18 where Paul focuses on Pharaoh. We read of God's dealings with Pharaoh in Exodus 4-14. What do we learn about Pharaoh from Exodus 1?
5. From Exodus, what is similar about Pharaoh and the Israelites? Does God harden an 'innocent' or 'neutral' Pharaoh? How is this like God 'handing over' in Romans 1:18ff?
6. 'God's mercy is bestowed upon those who don't deserve it – God's hardening affects those who do'. Do you agree? Why/ why not?

Read Romans 9:19-23

7. How does Paul respond in v19-21 to the charge that God looks a bit random in his mercy? Does he give an explanation?
8. In what ways has God exercised great patience with the objects of his wrath? What would have happened if God had been merely just but not patient?
9. What is the purpose of his exercising patience? What does he want the vessels of his mercy to come to know? How might we come to know that better:
 - a. NOW - Consider God's mercy to us - Romans 2:4; he "justifies the ungodly" (4: 4), while we were 'sinners' Christ died to reconcile us (5: 8 – 10); God offers the gift of eternal life in Jesus Christ (6: 23); he rescues us from the body of death (7: 25), and God did not spare his own Son! (8: 3, 32)
 - b. On the Last Day –
10. How does God's sovereign freedom in judgment and salvation:
 - a. Comfort and encourage you in your walk with the Lord?
 - b. Comfort and encourage you in evangelism and mission?