



The Book of Romans

How to be Right with God

(Romans 9:14-18)

Context:

- The 5 cycles of Paul's persuasive argument concerning justification.
- The cycle argument follows this format:
 - The cycle (theme) presented
 - The hypophora argumentation (Q and A)



Cycle 5: The Justification of the Nation Israel 9:1-11:32

Cycle 4: The Ramifications of Justification 8:1-39

Cycle 3: The Benefits of Justification 5:1-7:25

Cycle 2: The Only Means Of Justification 3:21-4:25

Cycle 1: The Universal Need For Justification 1:18-3:20

The Justification of the Nation Israel:

Cycle 5: Hypophora #1 (9:14-18)

“Why God shows mercy and hardens hearts”

Outline:

1. The First Hypophora in Cycle 5: v. 14
2. God choosing to show mercy: vv. 15-16
3. God choosing to harden the heart: vv. 17-18

1- The First Hypophora in Cycle 5: v. 14

Observations:

- “What shall we say then”
- “is there unrighteousness with God?”
 - For what?
 - Review 9:1-13
 - In choosing the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob? vv. 9-13
 - For the physical descendants not receiving their inheritance? vv. 1-5

1- The First Hypophora in Cycle 5: v. 14

Explanations:

- God made promises to Abraham and those promises were transferred to Isaac, and to Jacob and the nation of Israel.
- The nation of Israel rejected their Messiah and thus did not receive these promises.
- Paul is going to **begin** the discussion on explaining how they are still the chosen people of God but why they (the nation) are currently not saved and bound for their glorious inheritance.
- He is going to **begin** to answer this first hypophora by using two illustrations from Israel's history.

Outline:

1. The First Hypophora in Cycle 5: v. 14
2. God choosing to show mercy: vv. 15-16
3. God choosing to harden the heart: vv. 17-18

2- God choosing to show mercy: vv. 15-16

- Observations:

- There is NOT unrighteousness with God.
 - “certainly not!” v. 14c.
- Paul’s point about Moses v. 15
 - Cf. Exodus 33:19

- **Context of Exodus 33:19:**

- The golden calf incident Ex. 32
- God's response Ex. 32:7-10
- Moses' intercession Ex. 32:11-14 (This illustrates God's election of the nation of Israel being the foundation of their relationship to Him. "that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works but of Him who calls" Rom. 9:11.)
- Moses' remediation Ex. 32:25-29 (cf. "not all Israel is of Israel" Rom. 9:6)

- **Context of Exodus 33:19:**

- Moses makes atonement Ex. 32:30-33 (cf. “For I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren” Rom. 9:3)
- God kills those who rejected Him Ex. 32:33-35
- Believing Israel within the nation of Israel Ex. 33:7-11
- Moses asks for clarification for who will actually see the land blessings of Abraham. Ex. 33:12-19
- God reveals Himself to Moses Ex. 33:20-23

2- God choosing to show mercy: vv. 15-16

- Observations:

- There is NOT unrighteousness with God.
- Paul's point about Moses v. 15
- Paul's conclusion v. 16
 - “it is not the willing one”
 - “it is not the running one”
 - “but the mercy of GOD”

- **Explanations:**

- In Moses' day Israel rejected their God.
- God punished those who rejected Him
- Despite God's anger towards Israel, He remained faithful to His covenant to the patriarchs.
- Those who accepted God were the ones that would experience the Abrahamic blessings
- The principle is that the fulfillment of the promises is purely by God's grace and mercy and not by Israel's desire nor zeal for righteousness.
- You also see the principle of God further revealing Himself to those who have positively responded to what has been revealed to them. (cf. Parabolic ministry of Christ Mt. 13:10-17)

Outline:

1. The First Hypophora in Cycle 5: v. 14
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3. God choosing to harden the heart: vv. 17-18

3- God choosing to harden the heart: vv. 17-18

- **Observations:**

- Paul's point about Pharaoh v. 17
- Paul's conclusion v. 18

3- God choosing to harden the heart: vv. 17-18

- **Observations:**

- Paul's point about Pharaoh v. 17
 - God's plan is not thwarted by human will
 - God uses those who resist His will for His glory
 - Pharaoh's hardened heart:

Pharaoh's hardened heart: (in Exodus narrative)

1. Pharaoh 7:14, 22
2. Pharaoh 8:15
3. Pharaoh 8:19
4. Pharaoh 8:32
5. Pharaoh 9:7
6. The LORD 9:12 (cf. vv. 13-14)
7. Pharaoh 9:34-35
8. The LORD 10:1-2, 20
9. The LORD 10:27

3- God choosing to harden the heart: vv. 17-18

- **Observations:**

- Paul's conclusion v. 18
 - Paul is going to draw a conclusion "Therefore"
 - "He has mercy on whom He will" (those who respond positively to Him or His revelation)
 - "whom He wills He hardens" (those who respond negatively to Him or His revelation)

- Cf. Romans 1:18-22

3- God choosing to harden the heart: vv. 17-18

- Explanations:

- God has a plan for those justified
- God's plan is sovereignly decided (those justified WILL be glorified cf. Romans 8:29-30)
- The nation of Israel is elect. But that does NOT guarantee individual justification.
- Israel rejected the testimony of the prophets, and the Messiah
- God has hardened the heart of the nation of Israel

Summary/Application

- Salvation is by grace and not merit
- God has sovereignly decided that those of faith will be justified
- Suppressing the truth in unrighteousness can lead to a hardened heart
- Israel suppressed the truth of their Messiah and received national hardening
- Unbelievers that suppress the truth find themselves in a dangerous position by continuing to suppress the truth.
- Can believers suppress the truth?
- What happens if a believer suppresses the truth?
- Is Israel saved by their heritage?
No! They must believe.

The Justification of the Nation Israel:

Cycle 5: Hypophora #1 (9:14-18)

“Why God shows mercy and hardens hearts”