
The Apostolic Defense:

God's Faithfulness, God's Gospel, and God's People

Responding to the Prosecution - Defending the Justice of God

Opening Remarks:

Hearing the Scripture:

Rom 9:14-23 What shall we say then? Is there injustice on God's part? By no means! (15) For he says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion." (16) So then it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy. (17) For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, "For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I might show my power in you, and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth." (18) So then he has mercy on whomever he wills, and he hardens whomever he wills. (19) You will say to me then, "Why does he still find fault? For who can resist his will?" (20) But who are you, O man, to answer back to God? Will what is molded say to its molder, "Why have you made me like this?" (21) Has the potter no right over the clay, to make out of the same lump one vessel for honorable use and another for dishonorable use? (22) What if God, desiring to show his wrath and to make known his power, has endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, (23) in order to make known the riches of his glory for vessels of mercy, which he has prepared beforehand for glory-

Exposition of the Text:

I. Group One: The Friendly Group

This Group Is Addressed in a Two Part Response:

Part 1: Objection - Response - Conclusion - vs.14-16

Point 1: Objection

Point 2: Response

Point 3: Conclusion

Part 2: Objection - Response - Conclusion - vs.14, 17-18

Point 1: Objection

Point 2: Response

Point 3: Conclusion

II. Group Two: The Furious Group

Point 1: Objection

Point 2: Response

A Four-fold Response:

1: Points the Objector to God's

2: Points the Objector to God's

3: Points the Objector to God's

4: Points the Objector to God's

Point 3: Conclusion [Left unstated and obvious.]

Concluding Thoughts:

❖ Conclusion #1: Though the manifestation of wrath and power as a demonstration of justice may be seen as darker glories of God they are glories nonetheless.

❖ Conclusion #2: As manifestations of God's glory, they too, like all the others facets of glory, serve to increase our joy in and love for God as he truly is.

❖ Conclusion #3: In manifesting His glory over rebellious men, God vindicates His majesty, specifically His justice, that has been injured by the sin of evil men.

❖ Conclusion #4: God in making known His power over sin, vindicates and avenges His children who have opposed by their enemies all their lives.

❖ Conclusion #5: God, in making known his wrath, vividly puts forward the chief of all his works among men, and magnifies His mercy.