

• Wife made cookies (for church). Cooper & plot. Julie allowed us to so she could catch us. She could've stopped us. Is it Julie's fault?

• We'll come back to this.

<sup>16</sup> *It does not, therefore, depend on human desire or effort, but on God's mercy.* <sup>17</sup> *For Scripture says to Pharaoh: "I raised you up for this very purpose, that I might display my power in you and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth."* (God displayed His power through the plagues and God's power was heard about in nations all over) <sup>18</sup> *Therefore God has mercy on whom he wants to have mercy, and he hardens whom he wants to harden.*

• The Calvinist says, "See, God picks some to have mercy on and some to harden, like Pharaoh!" God controls everything including us.

• But let me ask you this. **If we are totally depraved and unable to choose God unless he causes us to, why did God have to harden Pharaoh's heart? Wasn't Pharaoh totally depraved and unable to choose God? Are we sure this is talking about salvation?**

• Now the logical response to God hardening a heart against God would be how can you blame the person then. It's God's fault. He hardened.

<sup>19</sup> *One of you will say to me: "Then why does God still blame us? For who is able to resist his will?"*

• **Great question. I'm sure Paul will give us a logical rationale of how God is just in punishing people when He hardened their hearts!**

<sup>20</sup> *But who are you, a human being, to talk back to God? "Shall what is formed say to the one who formed it, 'Why did you make me like this?'"* <sup>21</sup> *Does not the potter have the right to make out of the same lump of clay some pottery for special purposes and some for common use?*

• Uhh, That's not the answer we were looking for. This is like a child who asks his dad, "Why is it ok for you to watch bad movies but I can't?" "WHO ARE YOU TO TALK BACK TO ME?" Isn't that Hypocritical.

• Let me put it to you this way. Calvinist theologian **A.W. Pink** wrote, "**God loves whom He chooses. He does not love everyone.**" He then says that the "World" in **John 3:16** "refers to the world of believers (God's elect), in contradistinction from 'the world of the ungodly'".

• But hold the phone. **In Matt 5:43-44**, Jesus says, <sup>43</sup> *"You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor' and hate your enemy."* <sup>44</sup> *But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,*

• **Now understanding that God is love, look at 1 Cor 13 in light of the Calvinist view -** <sup>4</sup> *Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.* <sup>5</sup> *It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking,*

• **Is "love your enemies" one of those things that God tells us to do, but that He doesn't do himself?"** Hypocritical

• Calvinism says God loves some and not others, hardens some, softens others, predestines one to destruction, the other to glory.

• **The Calvinist will say it's ok because it's for the purpose of God getting His glory and He can sacrifice who He wants. He's the potter!** I believe that's false. I don't believe scripture teaches that.

**God doesn't get his glory by sacrificing others, but by sacrificing himself.** Because God is love. So how do we interpret this?

<sup>21</sup> *Does not the potter have the right to make out of the same lump of clay some pottery for special purposes and some for common use?*

• This passage isn't about God hardening some to go to hell.

• **Can God, Does God harden and soften hearts? Yes.** I ask God to soften my own heart and the hearts of others all the time.

• Though God doesn't harden someone for the purpose of damnation, God has hardened some temporarily to accomplish His redemptive purpose.

• **The argument here in Romans 9 is directed at the Jews in the Roman church and it's this: If God was righteous in hardening Pharaoh (a Gentile) to save the Israelites, then why can't God harden the Israelites to save the Gentiles?**

<sup>22</sup> *What if God, although choosing to show his wrath and make his power known, bore with great patience the objects of his wrath (they deserve wrath but patiently allows them to continue sinning) —prepared for destruction?* <sup>23</sup> *What if he did this to make the riches of his glory known to the objects of his mercy, whom he prepared in advance for glory—* <sup>24</sup> *even us, whom he also called, not only from the Jews but also from the Gentiles?*

• **This directly connects with verse 17 about Pharaoh.**

**Hypothetically, what if instead of God killing Pharaoh for rejecting Him, which is what he deserved, He kept him in his position and hardened his heart for a while so word would go out around the world to people God wants to show mercy to all over the world of the power of God in the plagues and how this God brings salvation.**

**If God was righteous in hardening Pharaoh (a Gentile) to save the Israelites, then why can't God harden the Israelites to save the Gentiles?**

• This passage is about the exact opposite of God excluding people from salvation. It is about God hardening some for a time to make salvation possible for everyone.

<sup>25</sup> *As he says in Hosea: "I will call them 'my people' who are not my people; and I will call her 'my loved one' who is not my loved one,"*

<sup>26</sup> *and, "In the very place where it was said to them, 'You are not my people,' there they will be called 'children of the living God.'"* <sup>27</sup> *Isaiah cries out concerning Israel: "Though the number of the Israelites be like the sand by the sea, only the remnant will be saved."* <sup>28</sup> *For the Lord will carry out his sentence on earth with speed and finality."* <sup>29</sup> *It is just as Isaiah said*

*previously: “Unless the Lord Almighty had left us descendants, we would have become like Sodom, we would have been like Gomorrah.”*

- **QUESTION JEWS IN ROMAN CHURCH HAVE: Why do so many of our fellow Jews have hard hearts toward the Gospel?**
- God could have wiped out all the ethnic Jews that rejected Jesus, but he kept them in their positions and hardened their hearts (remember back in Romans 1, part of God’s wrath is turning them over).
- **God kept them in place with hard hearts that would kill Jesus and He would die for all man including the Gentiles who are in the church now.**
- **Then after Jesus was resurrected, the Jews had hard hearts and persecuted the church causing them to scatter around the world and reach the Gentiles.** Are they hardened forever to damnation by God?

**Romans 11:11-12** *<sup>11</sup> Again I ask: Did they stumble so as to fall beyond recovery? Not at all! Rather, because of their transgression, salvation has come to the Gentiles to make Israel envious. <sup>12</sup> But if their transgression means riches for the world, and their loss means riches for the Gentiles, how much greater riches will their full inclusion bring!*

- **Great Cookie Caper of 2023, those cookies weren’t just for me.**
- Had Julie not caught me in the act and make an example of it, I would have slowly over the next day eaten all the cookies and there wouldn’t have been any of you.
- **Instead, she patiently allowed me (the object of her wrath) to eat a cookie and call me on it so cookies could be available for all.**
- Did she make me eat the cookie? **NO**
- Did she want me to eat the cookie? **NO**
- Is she responsible since she didn’t stop me? **No. I was already going to eat the cookie.**
- Did her patience by allowing me to eat the cookie ultimately mean everyone could have a cookie if they chose to? **Yes**

**God was righteous in hardening Pharaoh (a Gentile) to save the Israelites, and is also righteous in hardening the Israelites to save the Gentiles.**