

***God is Just: Mercy or Not***  
**Romans 9:14-18**

***Objection: an anticipated protest about God's justice. 14a***

Paul's defense of God's justice begins as in 3:5, 6:1, 7:7, 9:19,30. Is it unjust to choose I & J over I & E before birth (and others, 8:28-30)?

***Rejection: a fiery response to anyone questioning God's justice. 14b***

*May it never be!* See 3:6,31, 6:2, 7:7,13. God chooses those whom He pleases, but it's a false conclusion to say that God is unjust in doing so.

***Explanation: Mercy or not, it is God's call, and He is just. 15-18***

- Paul's answer ≠ God chooses those who will choose Him. Instead see 15-18 = a scriptural response, and 19-23 = sharp rhetorical questions.
- Suggesting God is unjust is not new, Job. 19:6,7, Jer. 12:1, Mal. 2:17.
- Again we get an account of two people—one favored by God, one not.

God's mercy to Moses and Israel (Ex. 33:12-19)

Reason ≠ our efforts but God's choice of whom to show mercy. 15  
God is free to grant mercy, which can be received but not rejected. 16

God's hardening of Pharaoh (9:11-16 / 4:21, 7:3 / 8:15,32)

Reason = God's purpose is to show His power and gain renown. 17  
God is free to further harden hearts which have rejected Him.

- Conclusion: God's is just whether He shows mercy or hardens.  
What are some implications here?  
Why should this be heartwarming?  
Why should this be a hard warning?

