**‘God’s Glorious Gospel: The Righteousness God Requires’**

**Message #56 – “Has God Been Fair?”**

**July 9th,** **2017  
Text: Rom. 9:14-18**

Keith M. Doyle, Lead Pastor

**I. Summary:**

**1. Section #1: The Righteousness God Requires (Chap.1:1-3:20)**

* Romans 3:9-22 – **Summary:** Religious ‘Outsiders’ and ‘Insiders’ are all Under Sin (v.9)
* **Theme: God's Holiness In Condemning Sin**

**2. Section #2: The Righteousness Christ Provides (Chap.3:21-6:23)**

* So if there is NO human solution (Chap.3-5) – God has a solution!
* **Theme: God’s Grace in Justifying Sinners**

**3. Section #3: The Righteousness the Spirit Produces (Chap.7:1-8:39)**

* This new union has a ‘new way’ of living, ***‘…new way of the Spirit’*** (7:6)
* **Theme: God’s Power in Sanctifying Believers**

**4. Section #4: God’s Righteousness in Salvation (Chap.9-11)**

* Have God’s promises to save failed if there is rampant unbelief?
* **Framing the Text** 
  + 9:1-5 – The privileged position of the Jewish people…but their present ‘lost-ness’
  + 9:6-13 – Ok, so has God’s Word then failed? By ‘passing over’ some?
  + 9:14-18 - Has God been unfair?
  + 9:19-33 – God’s in control - this is why Israel failed…the Gentiles will now receive it

**5. Interrogative Question:**

* + ***Illus.*** *Matt 20:1-16, ‘Workers in the Vineyard’*
  + **Q. *Has God’s character been compromised in anyway by His granting of mercy to some and not others?***
  + My aim is to show you what Paul says about God’s Sovereignty

1. **God’s Faithfulness, *‘…Is God unjust?...’* (14-16)**
   1. **It’s Outrageous (14)**
   * God’s sovereignty and human responsibility will ‘collide’ in these chapters
   * The ‘problem’ the end of Romans 8 presents…answered now
   * The question that governs chapters 9-11: ***How can we know nothing will separate us from the love of Christ (when His chosen people Israel) are separated from Christ?***
   * ***‘What then shall we say?’*** (14)=It’s outrageous to say God is unjust
   * Back to Jacob and Esau – ‘love’ and ‘hate’ (13)
   * Romans 9 and the authority of God’s Word; Structure of this passage

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   1. **It’s Consistent (15,16)**
   * God has always been a God of mercy, ***‘I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy…’***
   * The example from Exodus – context of Ex.33
   * **Illus.** Thomas Shreiner quote; **Apply:** No one ‘deserves’ mercy
   * ***‘Compassion’*** and ***‘mercy’* (15) –** a distinction?
   * **V.16** – ***‘It does not depend on human will…but on God…’*** - Paul reinforces the conclusion: ‘*The one and only actor in Salvation is God’* (Moo)
   * The ‘origin’ of faith c/f Eph.2:8-10 ***‘it’*** – what? ***‘prepared beforehand’***?

1. **God’s Freedom, *‘…So He has mercy on Whomever He wills…’* (17-18)** 
   1. **God’s Perfection (17)**
   * Salvation from God’s perspective Paul’s Logic: Does God give to man anything in greater measure than He has in Himself?
   * **Illus.** Unlimited freedom vs. limited freedom (power, knowledge…?); A threat to man’s sinful self-righteousness
   * The reason for the plagues! Ex. 9:16, ***‘show my power in you, and that my Name be proclaimed in all the earth’*** (17); the display of God’s glory, Name and power
   1. **God’s *‘Hardening’* (18) =** What does this mean?
   * **Illus.** Moses and Pharaoh
   * **God hardened -** Ex.4:21;7:3 – principle of ‘first mention’ in Scripture…***’…but I will harden his heart, so that he will not let my people go’*** (4:21)
   * **Pharaoh hardened** - 8:15, ***‘…he hardened his heart and would not listen to them…’***
   * **C/f Rom.1:24,26,28 –** the ‘withdrawal’ of restraint, scary
   * Harmonizing these truths; **Illus.** A college professor
2. **Application:** 
   1. **He is a Merciful God**
   * Amazed by God’s mercy…again and again…comforted by salvation’s promise and assurance
   1. **He is a Saving God**
   * Pray for, long for and expect conversions
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