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

**Message #57 – “Gentiles, Jews, Church Politics, and the   
Relentless Mercy of God’s Love for Us”**

**July 16th,** **2017  
Text: Rom. 9:19-29**

Pete Jaggard, Elder

**1. INTRODUCTION – The Context of Romans 1-8 and 9:18**

* 1-8 The righteousness God requires/Christ provides/the Spirit produces: The Gospel
* 8:18-39 The Spirit produces “a powerful hope” through suffering, and the love of Christ from which we cannot be separated
* Is it really true that nothing can separate us from the love of Christ? What about church conflict that affects our worship, our practice, the food we eat, and our attitudes toward one another?
* Why 3 chapters in Romans on the Jewish-Gentile Tension? The Situation in 4 Layers

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* The Apostle Paul as the ideal one to address this issue – from both sides (Romans, Galatians)
* Dueling errors: Gentile arrogance (Rom 11:18), Jewish self-righteous legalism (Rom 9:31-32)
* Rom 9:18 Divine Mercy and God’s Relentlessness; an illustration from Star Wars

**2. The Prerogative of God’s Relentless Mercy: Divine Sovereignty (9:19-21)**

* The problem of free will, and Paul’s response – the potter and clay metaphor
* The lack of human legal standing before God the Sovereign Judge – Job 16:8
* The lack of human moral standing before God the Sovereign Creator – Isaiah 45:9-13
* The lack of human authority in the face of God’s Sovereign Wisdom
* Honorable and dishonorable vessels; Humility comes before honor – Prov. 15:33; 18:12; Isa 64:1-9

**3. The Purpose of God’s Relentless Mercy: Divine Glory (9:22-23)**

* A deeper question than the free will question: How will God get his glory in bringing the Gospel to all the world starting with one ethnic people, yet maintain his justice and mercy for all?
* Divine Attributes on display: Wrath, Power, Patience
* Vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, Vessels of mercy God prepared beforehand – different words! God prepares vessels of mercy; who prepares vessels of wrath?
* The riches of God’s glory on display – His glory, our future glory with him

**4. The Proposal of God’s Relentless Mercy to Gentiles and Jews in this Age:   
Divine Love (9:24-25)**

* God calls his vessels of glory from all nations – but they are to be more than clay pots!
* What he is offering is a marriage proposal to his people Hos 2:14-20; Eph 5:25-27; Rev 21:1-7

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* Hosea: his unrequited love for his adulterous wife illustrates God’s love for lost people, pursuing us through our unfaithfulness to him and his pain of separation from us
* Rom 9:25 – Hosea 2:23 quoted in 1 Peter 2:10 refers to all whom God calls in this age, Gentile or Jewish
* The relentless mercy of God’s Covenant Love – Hos 3:1-3; 11:7-9; 14:4-9; Jer 31:3; 2 Tim 2:13

**5. The Promise of God’s Relentless Mercy for the Remnant of Israel at the   
End of this Age: Divine Faithfulness (9:26-29)**

* The “promise made by God” to the Hebrew patriarchs (Acts 26:6-8)
* Rom 9:26 – quoting from Hosea 1:10; applies to a “remnant” in end-time national Israel. Evidence for this: “in the (very) place (*topo*)”; Hosea 1:11; Hosea 3:4-5
* Rom 9:27 – quoting Isaiah 10:22-23; more evidence of the promise to Israel to be fulfilled in the last days of this age
* The “remnant of Israel” – those who will come to Jesus as their Messiah in this age, a few now (because of a temporary “partial hardening” – Rom 11:25) but more as the return of Christ draws near.
* Key “remnant” passages – Isa 11:6-13; Isa 28:5-6; Jer 23:3-8; Jer 31:1-14; Ezek 11:13-25; Mic 4:1-8; Mic 7:18-20
* Rom 9:28 – The Fullness and Finality of God’s Final Judgment on the earth
* Rom 9:29 – quoting Isa 1:9; the relentless mercy of God to leave survivors of Israel along the way, that one day they might see their true Messiah coming to Jerusalem to reign as King over all the earth (Zech 12:2-13:1; 14:4-9)
* When he comes, Messiah-Jesus will be called “Faithful and True” (Rev 19:11)
* None of the remnant prophecies above have yet been fulfilled; the name of Christ as Faithful and True is at stake in their final and complete fulfillment.

**6. CONCLUSION: How do these verses answer the hidden question posed above?**

* How will God get his glory in bringing the Gospel to all the world starting with one ethnic people, yet maintain his justice and mercy for all?
* **Rom 15:8-9** Jesus came as a servant to Israel **to show God’s** **true faithfulness to his promises to Israel**, and **to show his** **mercy to Gentiles**.
* He desires a deep marital love relationship with all his people.
* We all need his mercy. True righteousness comes not by heritage or by “meritage,” but by the relentless mercy of God’s unfailing love for us. He will never give up loving you into his family!
* His love for you is a relentless, everlasting love, revealed in the death, resurrection, and soon return of Jesus Christ, for all his people, Jewish or Gentile. You can trust his promises for you because he is Faithful and True.
* Just say “Yes” to God’s marriage proposal to you – Welcome to the New Covenant!
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