# “Let’s Be Careful About Calling Out God”

### Discovering the Righteousness of God—A study in the book of Romans

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# Romans 9:14-18 (ESV)

**14**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.

1) No one ‘**deserves**’ His **mercy** – Yet many will experience it. (v 14-15)

**16For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. 17For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him. 18Whoever believes in Him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already…” (John 3:16-18)**

# Isaiah 55:6-9 (ESV)

**6**“Seek the Lord while he may be found;
    call upon him while he is near;
**7**let the wicked forsake his way,
    and the unrighteous man his thoughts;
let him return to the Lord, that he may have compassion on him,
    and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
**8**For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
    neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord.
**9**For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
    so are my ways higher than your ways
    and my thoughts than your thoughts.

a. “It” *(God’s election)* is by His **will** & **exertion** not ours

 “So then it depends not on human will or exertion, but on

 God, who has mercy.” Romans 9:16

 **“And not only so, but also when Rebekah had conceived children by one man, our forefather Isaac, though they were not yet born and had done nothing either good or bad—in order that God's purpose of election might continue, not because of works but because of Him who calls—she was told, “The older will serve the younger.” (Romans 9:10-12)**

**2) Be careful thinking God answers to us - He is Sovereign over all. (v17-18)**

“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." So then he has mercy on whomever he wills, and he hardens whomever He wills.”

a. God’s plans are not ours – His **ways** often **unsearchable**.

**Exodus 8:15 “But when Pharaoh saw that there was a respite, he hardened his heart and would not listen to them, as the Lord had said.”**

**Exodus 8:19 “Then the magicians said to Pharaoh: “This is the finger of God.” But Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he would not listen to them”**

**Exodus 8:32“But Pharaoh hardened his heart this time also, and did not let the people go.”**

**Exodus 9:12“But the Lord hardened the heart of Pharaoh, and he did not listen to them, as the Lord had spoken to Moses.”**

b. We were all **hardened** once, given over to **pride** and **arrogance** – God was and is **patient**.

 **“But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.” (2 Peter 3:8-9)**

# Romans 1:18-25 (ESV)

**18**For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. **19**For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. **20**For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. **21**For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. **22**Claiming to be wise, they became fools, **23**and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.

**24**Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, **25**because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.

 **Steps to consider:**

* **We should bow in humility & gratefulness, casting ourselves on Jesus!**
* **We should be in wonder that there are any true Christians, let alone that we may be among them**
* **We should be in prayer for those not yet Christians, speaking to them graciously and patiently – looking for God’s work of ‘drawing them’. We will know it by their probing questions. (Colossians 4:2-6)**

 **Last step to consider:**

* **We should be willing to make sacrifices to bring the gospel to those who have not heard *(our responsibility)*, for without hearing none have a chance to confess their sin to Him and call on Him for salvation *(their responsibility)*…**

 **“…if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved… 14How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in Him of whom they have never heard?” (Romans 1:9, 14)**