God’s Character Called into Question

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

# Pastor Shaun McDonald

## Romans 9:19-29 (ESV)

(19) You will say to me then, "Why does he still find fault? For who can resist his will?" (20) But who are you, O man, to answer back to God? Will what is molded say to its molder, "Why have you made me like this?" (21) Has the potter no right over the clay, to make out of the same lump one vessel for honorable use and another for dishonorable use? (22) What if God, desiring to show his wrath and to make known his power, has endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, (23) in order to make known the riches of his glory for vessels of mercy, which he has prepared beforehand for glory-- (24) even us whom he has called, not from the Jews only but also from the Gentiles? (25) As indeed he says in Hosea, "Those who were not my people I will call 'my people,' and her who was not beloved I will call 'beloved.'" (26) "And in the very place where it was said to them, 'You are not my people,' there they will be called 'sons of the living God.'" (27) And Isaiah cries out concerning Israel: "Though the number of the sons of Israel be as the sand of the sea, only a remnant of them will be saved, (28) for the Lord will carry out his sentence upon the earth fully and without delay." (29) And as Isaiah predicted, "If the Lord of hosts had not left us offspring, we would have been like Sodom and become like Gomorrah."

**1) He is sovereign over all of His creation. (Vv. 19-21)**

“Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind and said: "Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge? Dress for action like a man; I will question you, and you make it known to me. "Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding. Who determined its measurements--surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? On what were its bases sunk, or who laid its cornerstone, when the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy? "Or who shut in the sea with doors when it burst out from the womb, when I made clouds its garment and thick darkness its swaddling band, and prescribed limits for it and set bars and doors, and said, 'Thus far shall you come, and no farther, and here shall your proud waves be stayed'? "Have you commanded the morning since your days began, and caused the dawn to know its place, that it might take hold of the skirts of the earth, and the wicked be shaken out of it? It is changed like clay under the seal, and its features stand out like a garment. From the wicked their light is withheld, and their uplifted arm is broken. "Have you entered into the springs of the sea, or walked in the recesses of the deep? Have the gates of death been revealed to you, or have you seen the gates of deep darkness? Have you comprehended the expanse of the earth? Declare, if you know all this. "Where is the way to the dwelling of light, and where is the place of darkness, that you may take it to its territory and that you may discern the paths to its home? You know, for you were born then, and the number of your days is great!””

**(Job 38:1-21)**

**Job 40:7-8 (ESV)**  
**7**“Dress for action like a man;  
    I will question you, and you make it known to me.  
**8**Will you even put me in the wrong?  
    Will you condemn me that you may be in the right?

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

**(Isaiah 55:8-9)**

**2) He is patient toward those deserving wrath. (Vv. 22-26)**

“And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.””

**(Genesis 2:16-17)**

“For the wages of sin is death...”

**(Romans 6:23 ESV)**

“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 3:9)**

“For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”

**(2 Corinthians 5:21)**

**3) He is faithful to those who are unfaithful. (Vv. 27-29)**

“If we are faithless, he remains faithful-- for he cannot deny himself.”

**(2 Timothy 2:13)**

“And when the LORD smelled the pleasing aroma, the LORD said in his heart, "I will never again curse the ground because of man, for the intention of man's heart is evil from his youth. Neither will I ever again strike down every living creature as I have done. While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease.””

**(Genesis 8:21-22)**

“We must always remind ourselves that, in light of the immensity of human sin before the holiness of God, it is by his mercy that he chooses to save anyone. None of us is deserving of his grace; as sinners, we have all forfeited everything—and that puts a whole different perspective on the question. So the real question is not “How could God ever condemn anyone?” but “How could God ever save anyone?””

– Roger Mohrlang