

ROMANS

THE MYSTERY OF
RIGHTEOUSNESS



SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

IS ELECTION UNFAIR?

ROMANS 9:14-18

MAR. 15, 2015

TAKEAWAYS

Write out your one-sentence takeaways. Consider writing these on a notecard and putting it on your mirror, desk, or car dashboard.

What to remember:

What to put off/put on:

What to share with someone:

NEXT STEPS

Here are some next steps to walk in this truth this week. Don't feel constrained to these but feel free to use them.

- Memorize Rom. 11:33-36 as we study Rom. 9-11.
- Consider reading one of the books from the "For Further Study" section on the book for more understanding.
- Take a three week evangelism class at College Park starting on March 22. Learn more at <http://bit.ly/evangelismclass>

HOW TO PRAY

Pray over the praises and requests of those around you but here are some additional ways to pray into our passage this week.

- Praise God for his sovereignty, righteousness, and mercy.
- Thank God for showing mercy to you even though you did nothing to deserve it.
- Ask God to give you an open heart to submit to and understand him, his Word, and his ways.
- Pray for God to extend mercy on specific people in your life who don't know Christ.

APPLICATION AND DISCUSSION

These questions focus on the sermon text and message. We've highlighted key ones but use however many your group needs.

Review: What was the main verse from Rom. 9:1-13 and Paul's reason for why we can still trust God's promises despite Israel's unbelief?

1. Why is God still just if he chooses not to have mercy on all people? Why is he merciful for having compassion on any?
2. How does your testimony of coming to faith include an awareness of God's mercy and compassion on you? In what way did 9:15 prove itself as you were saved not through your "will or exertion" but through his mercy?
3. In Romans 9:16 (cf. 9:30-33) we see that our election and salvation does not depend on our works, our goodness, or our effort. Why is it good news for sinners to know our salvation is based on God's purposes and promises rather than our effort?
4. In this text we see an example from Exodus of how God works in "all things" (Rom. 8:28) for our good as the hardening of Pharaoh led to the deliverance of God's people and the magnification of God's name. How might this encourage us to trust God during trials and circumstances where it seems like evil is winning?
5. In both weeks we've seen the purposes of God as the foundation of everything. In what ways are you comforted, helped, or encouraged by knowing God has purposes in all things? Is there any area right now where you need to apply this to your life?
6. How might a proper understanding of election lead to gratitude in our hearts? How are you letting the message of Romans 9 cultivate thanksgiving, gratitude, and worship in your own heart?
7. How do you think you should think, live, or believe differently this week in light of the sermon and text?

FOR FURTHER STUDY

For those wanting to study some of the key ideas in more detail here are some cross-references and resources.

- **Parallel passages:** Ex. 8:15-9:12; 33:17-22; Hosea 1-2; 1 Pet. 2:10; James 1:13; the life of Joseph in Gen. 37-50.
- **God's justice:** Dt. 32:4; 2 Chron. 19:7; Job 8:3; 34:10; Ps. 92:15; Rom. 3:21-26.
- **Election:** Rom. 8:28; Eph. 1:4-6, 11; 3:11; 2 Tim. 1:9;
- Consider reading a book such as *Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God* by J.I. Packer; *Putting Amazing Back into Grace* by Michael Horton; or *Proof* by Daniel Montgomery and Timothy Paul Jones.