

ROMANS 36 – 9:19-24

The Potter's Vessels

1. Review

- a. Don't miss the forest for the trees. The topic is still God's purpose for Israel
- b. Rom 9-11 are minefields b/c of the idea that the church replaced Israel in MMLJ
- c. There are rocks in this soil, we need to remove the wrong before we see the right

2. 9:19

- a. Rom 9:19 is the response of a self-justifying blasphemer, remember Rom 3:3-5
- b. *"why does he yet find fault?"* – If Rom 9:11, 16, 18 are true, whose fault is it? God's?
- c. He does not owe us anything, our response to him matters, not his response to us
- d. Hardening is what happens when people resist God's will and he doesn't move
- e. The just live by their faith, no matter what God does with them - Job 13:15, 40:1-5
- f. *"Who hath resisted his will?"* – The "will" is God's response, not a salvation decree
- g. God's will resisted- Eze 33:11, Luk 13:34, Rom 13:2, 1Tim 2:4, 1Thes 2:18, 2Tim 3:8
- h. *Why does he find fault?* You sinned, not him. *Who resists his will?* You are, O man.

3. 9:20-21

- a. *"Shall the thing formed say..."* A: No, it is what ungrateful children say 9:8, 9:13
- b. Disobedient Israel is the ungrateful children in Isaiah 29:13-16 and Matt 15:7-9
- c. Isaiah prophesied of disobedient Israel that crucified Jesus – Isa 30:1-3, 30:10-18
- d. The potter is God and the thing formed is the nation of Israel – Isa 64:8-12
- e. Potter and clay – people make this personal, by spiritualizing Jer 1:5 & Jer 29:11
- f. God gives us the meaning. The vessel is a nation, not a person! - Jeremiah 18:1-12
- g. Two vessels from the same lump of Israel. 1) disobedient Israel, 2) obedient Israel

4. 9:22-24

- a. *"willing to shew his wrath"* – Which had not yet come – 2 Pet 3:9-10, Rev 6:16-17
- b. *"endured with much longsuffering"* – Jesus gave woe to Israel, but blessing to the 12
- c. *"vessels of wrath"* – disobedient Israel, but wrath also on Gentiles - Rom 2:9
- d. Why are they fitted to destruction? Because of their disobedience – Rom 2:3-8
- e. *"riches of his glory"* – In the context, Israel's glory - Rom 9:4, Exo 33:18, Isa 46:13
- f. *"vessels of mercy"* – those that receive the Messiah – Luke 2:32, John 1:11-12
- g. *"afore prepared..."* – The church was not prepared afore, it was hid in God-Eph 3:9

5. 9:24

- a. *"not of the Jews only"* – which has always been the case – Gen 12:3, Rom 2:10-11
- b. Jews and Gentiles received him – Luke 7:5-9, Matt 8:10-12, 15:26-27, Acts 11:18
- c. The first time Gentiles are mentioned, it is not the church the body of Christ.
- d. What Paul is saying about Israel: God was longsuffering for the remnant's sake