

Romans: A Study on Reformation  
Lesson 23 “The Goodness of God”

I. Introduction - We are continuing our series on the book of Romans today. Paul wrote this letter from Corinth to the church in Rome to bring reformation to this church in 57 A.D. We are studying verse by verse through the book with our focus being on “Reformation.”

A. The main problem Paul wanted to reform with the church in Rome was the relationship between the Jews and Gentiles. They were in strife about beliefs and practices associated with their faith and trying to impose their will on each other. Paul did not want to revive this church. He wanted to reform it, which means bring change.

B. Last week we began studying the doctrine of election that **Romans 9&11** talk about.

1. Many teach this means God elects to save some and not others. Not true.
2. The point Paul was making is God elected to choose the Jewish nation to be a light to the gentiles. In **Romans 11** we will see that God will eventually use the gentiles to reach unbelieving Jews.
3. Election is about how God uses people to reach the world, not who gets to go to heaven. God’s not willing that any should perish. **2 Peter 3:9**.
4. Faith is the key to understanding these passage. **Romans 9:6** - Paul says not all are Israel who are of Israel. Why? Some don’t believe. The key to being brought into the family of God isn’t birthright, its faith.
5. Faith was the key to why God elected certain individuals like Isaac and Jacob in the Old Testament. Faith attracts the favor of God.

C. Today we’re going to continue studying the Doctrine of Election. We’re going to look at 3 verses in **Romans** that have often been misinterpreted to teach that God wills to save some and not save others. Our focus is learning to see the "Goodness of God."

1. Key principle - Any doctrinal belief that is outside of God’s nature must be questioned. His nature is love and He looks like Jesus. **Colossians 1:15**.

II. The Goodness of God

A. **Romans 9:14-16**

1. **Verse 14** Some argue since God elects to use some and not others or shows extra favor to some, God must be unrighteous. Not true. **Matthew 20:1-16**.
  - a. Mercy - eleeō - Compassion. Means not getting what we deserve.
  - b. Syro-Phoenician woman cried out for mercy. Her daughter didn’t deserve to be healed. **Matthew 15:22**

2. *Verse 15* This verse doesn't mean God is compassionate and saves some and sends other to hell. The key to understanding this verse is to look at the context from where it was quoted. **Exodus 33:19**. Why did God say this to Moses?

a. *Exodus 33* is right after the children of Israel worship a golden calf in *Exodus 32*. This really hurt God's heart. He told Moses I will send my angel with you to drive out all of the inhabitants of the promised land, but I won't go with you. The people mourned when they heard this most likely from selfish motives.

b. **Exodus 33:7-24**

i. In this story we see Moses operate in faith and hunger for the presence of God. This motivated others to seek the Lord and birthed a revival in Israel.

ii. Moses called his tent the tabernacle of meeting because this is where God would descend and meet with Moses and others. Others who sought the Lord came and observed. (Way outside the camp).

iii. *Verses 8-10* Moses was hungry for God. Those who hunger will be filled. When Moses met with God, the people worshipped. Moses inspired faith in others.

iv. *Verse 11* Moses met with God face to face (possibly a pre-incarnate Jesus/another explanation is God's face was covered by the cloud, but Moses was near). Compare with **John 1:18**.

iv. *Verses 12-17* Moses asks God to show Him His way. He then asks God to help Moses remember the Jews are God's people. Moses then says, "If your presence doesn't go with us, do not bring us up from here." **Moses recognizes he'd found grace in God's sight. This caused Moses (a murderer) to make bold demands of God on behalf of Israel. He said the thing that made God's people special is they were marked by His presence.**

v. *Verses 18-19* Moses requests to see God's glory and God then declares He will be gracious to whom He is gracious and have compassion on whom He has compassion. **What attracted this statement? Moses's faith and hunger. Hebrews 11** talks about Moses's faith 5 times. **God is always compassionate, but those who believe it, will experience a greater measure of it.**

vi. *Verses 20-23* Moses wants to see God's glory so God hides him in a rock (picture of our life being hid in Christ) and makes His goodness pass before Him. **God is so good, He had to show Moses his back parts. If Moses would have seen His face He'd have been like Enoch who walked with God and was not - As we behold Him, we become like Him - 2 Corinthians 3:18.**

3. *Verse 16* It is not of him who wills or runs, but it's God who shows mercy. Moses and Israel stood in God's grace. Israel didn't deserve any of the mercy

they received after their idolatry, yet God was merciful to them because of Moses's faith in God's goodness.

### III. Conclusion

A. The main thing I want you to take away from today is God is always good and compassionate, but some people experience more of it than others. The biblical precedent for that is their bold faith that comes from a revelation of His grace. ex: Hezekiah made a bold request of God to extend his life after the prophet declared he would die. God extended his life 15 years.

B. The other thing I want you to realize is just because God may show more compassion than normal to some, that doesn't mean He doesn't show any compassion to others. It certainly doesn't mean He chooses to save some and send others to hell.

C. Call Up Prayer Team

D. Pray Closing Prayer