

VOLITION AND FREE WILL
MOSES AND PHARAOH

"I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy," Romans 9:14-18.

1. God is sovereign and He has the right to deal with man in justice and righteousness, or the right to deal with man in GRACE, love and eternal life. It all depends upon what man does about Jesus Christ, positive or negative volition. This explains any question about Romans 8:14.
2. Moses requested to see the Glory of God.
 - A. Exodus 33:19, "And it came to pass, as Moses entered into the tabernacle, the cloudy pillar descended, and stood at the door of the tabernacle, and the Lord talked with Moses."
3. God answered and said, "I will have mercy... compassion," verse 15.

This was the basis on which Moses saw the glory of God. He didn't earn it or deserve it. He was going to see the glory of God because of who and what God is, not who and what Moses was.

 - A. Mercy: GRACE in action.
 - B. Compassion: Exercising GRACE toward someone.
4. Moses is used as an illustration that God deals with the believer in GRACE.
5. Moses went on positive signals and God is now free to deal with him in GRACE.
6. Pharaoh is used as an illustration that God deals with the unbeliever in wrath.
7. Pharaoh went on negative signals and God's sovereignty must now express itself in righteousness and justice (holiness).
8. Through the negative volition of Pharaoh, the whole known world was evangelized through the plagues.
 - A. Verse 18, "Mercy on whom He will." GRACE in action.
 - B. God had mercy on the entire world.
9. "Whom He will, He hardeneth." (The natural course of negative volition is a seared conscience, there just isn't any other avenue open).
10. God revealed Himself first in love to Pharaoh. Motivation for miracles was love, but Pharaoh rejected God's love.
 - A. God revealed Himself in wrath to Pharaoh, the ten plagues.
 - B. Pharaoh rejected God's revelation through wrath.
 - C. But people responded in two ways to the Gospel:
 1. Love of the Gospel.
 2. Fear of the alternative.
 - D. Pharaoh had negative volition under both conditions, so he was fitted for destruction.

1. Verse 22, "What if God, willing to shew His wrath, and to make His power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction."

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