

VOLITION AND VESSELS OF WRATH AND MERCY

Romans 9:20-23

1. **God is sovereign and has absolute will.**
 - A. Psalm 135:6, "Whatsoever the Lord pleased, that did He in Heaven, and in Earth, in the seas, and all deep places."
 1. He does whatsoever He pleases.
2. **He pleased to give man free will.**
 - A. This is the explanation of Romans 9:14, "What shall we say then? Is there unrighteousness with God? God forbid."
3. **He will not, sovereign decision, and cannot, immutability, coerce that free will because of his righteousness and justice.**
4. **God has absolute right and authority over His creatures (vessels) by virtue of creation.**
5. **God has absolute right to dispose of His works as it may please Him.**
6. **Regeneration and condemnation are the doing of God. He makes the vessel unto honor and dishonor.**
7. **But this doing of God is done only upon the exercise of the individual's volition, either positive or negative.**
8. **The believer is a vessel of honor because of who and what God is. And what Jesus Christ did on the cross and the Holy Spirit did at the moment of salvation.**
9. **The unbeliever is a vessel of dishonor because he superimposes his volition over God's volition.**
 - A. "God is not willing that any should perish," 2 Peter 3:9.
10. **Therefore the individual chooses, positive or negative, and God does the doing.**
11. **Romans 9:19, Paul is anticipating the question that the heretics will present.**
 - A. Why does God find fault with Pharaoh? (keep judging)
 - B. How can God blame Pharaoh for what happened when God is sovereign?
 - C. Answer:
 1. Application of Divine Essence, righteousness and justice.
 2. Application of points 6, 7, 8 above.
 3. Point 10, volition. "Mercy on whom..."
12. **Will the free will of man act in conjunction with the sovereign will of God, or act independently of it?**
 - A. "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life." — positive volition.
 - B. "He that believeth not the Son shall not see life." — negative volition.
 - C. "But the wrath of God abideth on him." (righteousness and justice)