

Is God Unjust?

Romans 9: 14-18

I. God is just because all His acts are for His glory.

- What is the standard for determining God's justice?

II. God is just because He is free to show His mercy to whom He will.

- What does receiving God's mercy depend on?

III. God is just because He is free to harden whomever He wills (9:17-18).

- In Exodus it is said ten times that Pharaoh hardened his own heart and ten times that God hardened Pharaoh's heart. Before Pharaoh hardens his own heart, God predicted that He would harden Pharaoh (Ex. 4:21; 7:3).

- The hardening of Pharaoh's heart was a judicial act (i.e., an act of judgment) and not arbitrary.

the judgment of his own sin (2 Thess. 2:9-12; Rom. 1:24-26).

- Pharaoh became increasingly stubborn and insensitive in response to God's commands to let Israel go. Pharaoh resisted the light of truth given to him.

- God's prediction of hardening Pharaoh's heart preceded Pharaoh's hardening. But Pharaoh sinned because he chose to sin. He resisted God and hardened his heart.

- Pharaoh was an unbeliever. He was proud, brutal and selfish. He rejected God's salvation. God was free to reject him (Ex. 5:1, 2, 7-9).

- The miracles which Pharaoh saw by the hand of Moses turned out to be "a savor from death unto death" (2 Cor. 2:16).

- God gives the light of the truth of the gospel. When it is rejected God turns the sinner over to

The glory of God in showing mercy and in hardening hearts:

- 1. God has unconditionally chosen to bestow the mercy of salvation upon some and not others.**
- 2. God demonstrates His glory in the eternal destiny of everyone, whether they receive mercy or eternal judgment.**
- 3. God's grace and mercy are glorified in those who are saved. God's justice and power are glorified in those who are judged for their sins.**
- 4. God is free to save whom He will and judge whom He will.**
- 5. How biblical is your understanding of God?**