



# The Potter and The Clay

ROMANS 9: 19 – 24

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SERIES: ROMANS: THE ROAD TO RIGHTEOUSNESS

# Romans 9: 19 - 24

<sup>19</sup> You will say to me then, “Why does He still find fault? For who resists His will?” <sup>20</sup> On the contrary, who are you, O man, who answers back to God? The thing molded will not say to the molder, “Why did you make me like this,” will it? <sup>21</sup> Or does not the potter have a right over the clay, to make from the same lump one vessel for honorable use and another for common use? <sup>22</sup> What if God, although willing to demonstrate His wrath and to make His power known, endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction? <sup>23</sup> And *He did so* to make known the riches of His glory upon vessels of mercy, which He prepared beforehand for glory, <sup>24</sup> *even us*, whom He also called, not from among Jews only, but also from among Gentiles.

# The Response Vv. 19 - 20

- ▶ How can people be held responsible if God makes such choices?
  - ▶ How can they be blamed for their unbelief and sin?
  - ▶ Hasn't their destiny already been determined?
  - ▶ This again challenges God's justice and righteousness.
- ▶ Answer, "Who do you think you are to answer back?"
  - ▶ God is sovereign and no one has the right to question.
  - ▶ This answer is not for the honest inquirer, but for the one challenging God.

# Clay Rights V. 21

- ▶ Clearly here the Potter has all the rights.
  - ▶ Isaiah 64: 6 – 8 and Jeremiah 18: 3 – 4.
  - ▶ The clay cannot complain about what it becomes.
- ▶ The Potter can make a clay vessel for either honorable use or common use.
  - ▶ Honorable may refer to something of beauty, of the best china only pulled out for festive occasions.
  - ▶ Common use could even refer to a receptacle for waste.
- ▶ But surely we are more than clay with intellect and will?

# Prepared Vessels? Vv. 22 – 24.

- ▶ God determined to allow sin (willing).
  - ▶ To demonstrate His wrath which displays His glory.
  - ▶ To make His power known.
- ▶ In mercy He endures with much patience.
  - ▶ God could judge immediately, but seeks salvation instead.
- ▶ Prepared (V.22) versus prepared (V. 23).
  - ▶ Passive (V.22) indicating self preparation.
  - ▶ Active (V.23) as noted with He prepared beforehand.

# Conclusion



- ▶ As verse 24 states, We can praise God that we have been chosen vessels for mercy from among both Jews and Gentiles.
- ▶ There are truths here that we cannot logically explain and must accept by faith.
- ▶ We can praise God because we know how undeserving we are.
- ▶ Without God's preparation in His mercy and grace no one deserves anything less than judgment.