Romans 9:19-29
"The Potter and the Clay"
November 1, 2026 Neal McKinney

God's sovereignty and our place (vv. 19-21)

- The classic question: if God is completely sovereign, then why does he hold humans responsible for sin? If we can't resist God's will, how can we be to blame?

God's shows his wrath and makes his power known (vv. 22-24)

- How can some people be called "vessels for destruction?" Where is the fairness in that?
- Job wrestled with this same question, and God responded by showing his power (see Job 38-41).
- God is not limited in scope or power. He knows all things, including those who will be part of his adopted family.

God's plan encompasses the whole of creation and the whole of the future

- He planned from eternity to make everyone who believes one of his adopted children.
- There is a plan that we cannot see or fully understand.
- God is the perfect Potter, King, and Father. We can trust his decisions.

Kingdom-minded servants of Jesus trust the sovereign plans of God and rest in the mercy he shows us.

Notes on Today's Message

Questions for Personal Study or Group Discussion

Open

- When was the last time you said that something wasn't fair?

Read

- Romans 9:19-29

Observe

- Have you ever asked the questions Paul does in verses 19-20? What is the thinking behind those questions?

- What is the central truth that Paul highlights in verse 21? What does he tell us about the nature of God?

- What do verses 22-29 tell us about the mercy of God? How does this apply to the questions asked in verses 19-20

- How might these verses help a non-Christian understand God's justice and his mercy?

Apply

- Have you ever wondered why God chose you to be part of his plan? What have you concluded?

- How do you hold both the wrath of God and his mercy together in your understanding of his nature?

- Where are you growing in your understanding of God's will for your life? What would you like to ask God about this?

Prayer

- *Thank God* for his sovereignty and his choice to show mercy in your life