

## The Book of Romans

### The Gospel of God

## Unconditional Election

- God chose out of fallen humanity those He would save; His choice was not conditioned on anything in the person, either foreseen faith, actions, desires or dispositions

Is this fair or just?!

<sup>14</sup> What shall we say then? There is no injustice with God, is there? May it never be!

<sup>15</sup> For He says to Moses, "I WILL HAVE MERCY ON WHO I HAVE MERCY, AND I WILL HAVE COMPASSION ON WHOM I HAVE COMPASSION."

<sup>16</sup> So then it *does not depend* on the man who wills or the man who runs, but on God who has mercy.

<sup>17</sup> For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, "FOR THIS VERY PURPOSE I RAISED YOU UP, TO DEMONSTRATE MY POWER IN YOU, AND THAT MY NAME MIGHT BE PROCLAIMED THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE EARTH."

<sup>18</sup> So then He has mercy on whom He desires, and He hardens whom He desires.

(Romans 9:14-18)

## Is God Unjust?

### 1. The Objection

- God is unjust to base His election to salvation upon nothing a person does
- This objection can only be raised (unsuccessfully) against the doctrine of "unconditional" election

## Is God Unjust?

### 2. Paul's Answer

<sup>18</sup> Then Moses said, "I pray You, show me Your glory!"

<sup>19</sup> And He said, "I Myself will make all My goodness pass before you, and will proclaim the name of the LORD before you; and *I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show compassion on whom I will show compassion.*"

(Exodus 33:18-19)

## Is God Unjust?

### 2. Paul's Answer

- the essence of God's character is the freedom to show mercy to whom He chooses
- God's mercy is not a matter of justice to those who receive it, but altogether undeserved

## Is God Unjust?

*Election keeps no one out of heaven who would otherwise have been there, but it keeps a whole multitude of sinners out of hell who otherwise would have been there.*

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There is hope for the worst of sinners!