

## The Book of Romans

### The Gospel of God

<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 dishonorable use?

<sup>22</sup> What if God, 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 in order to make known the riches of His glory upon vessels of mercy, which He prepared beforehand for glory?

(Romans 9:19-23)

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*“What objection can you make if it is in fact the case that God has tolerated with great patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction when you realized that His purpose in doing so has been to demonstrate His wrath, make His power known, and—especially—to make known the riches of His glory to vessels of mercy, prepared beforehand for glory?”*

(Doug Moo, paraphrase of Rom. 9:22-23)

## Vessels of Wrath & Mercy

### 1. God’s Patience

- God’s patience is the delay of the execution of His wrath upon sinners (“long-suffering”)
- it results in the storing up of wrath for the day of wrath on those who are unrepentant (c.f. Rom. 2:4-5)
- He exercises it toward those whom He has prepared for eternal judgment

## Vessels of Wrath & Mercy

### 2. God’s Purpose

- A. To demonstrate His wrath and power
  - God *wills* to demonstrate His wrath and make His power known
  - God’s present patience leads to a greater display of His glory in final judgment

## Vessels of Wrath & Mercy

### 2. God's Purpose

- A. To demonstrate His wrath and power
- B. To make known the riches of His glory
  - God's wrath and power ultimately serve His desire to make known the riches of His glory, especially His mercy, to His chosen people
  - God's purpose is to magnify the fullness of His glory for the eternal enjoyment of His people

“If it were not right that God should decree and permit and punish sin, there could be no manifestation of God's holiness in hatred of sin...There would be no manifestation of God's grace or true goodness, if there was no sin to be pardoned, no misery to be saved from. How much happiness soever he bestowed, his goodness would not be so much prized and admired, and the sense of it not so great . . . “

(Jonathan Edwards, “Concerning the Divine Decrees”)