

Romans 9:19-33
Sanctimony, Antimony, Testimony
and ‘Show Me the Money!’

Introduction

Throughout Romans we find Paul in a fierce anguished battle for the sake of the young church, it's new covenant, and the life of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

He is sold out, but not rung out as he wages war against **Paganism**—the lie that most of mankind has believed since they left the garden, the worship of created things rather than the Creator.

And **Judaism**—which clung to the remnants of salvation by works; self-righteous attempts to obey the Law.

Paul Addresses 2 More Questions;

1 Why are we to blame?

God, the potter made us this way!

This is a **sanctimonious** question— **EVEN BLASPHEMOUS!**

Sanctimony = the action or practice of acting as if one were morally superior to other people, or in this case, GOD

Paul answers “O Man, SHUT UP!”

Don't be tempted as the serpent tempted Adam and Eve to confront God as his equal.

Job believed God treated him unfairly—“ *Let the Almighty answer me!*”

God answered “*Where were you when I...?*” to him from the whirlwind in four flattening chapters!

Though **sanctimoniously** addressed , the **antimony** is real.

The concept that God is completely sovereign in all things, yet man is morally responsible is **antimony**.

Antimomy, according to J.I. Packer is “...an appearance of contradiction between conclusions that seem equally logical, reasonable, or necessary, neither dispensable nor comprehensible. It is unavoidable and insoluble. We do not invent it, we cannot explain it. God orders and controls all things, human actions among them. Yet He holds every man responsible for the choices he makes and the courses of action he pursues.”

John Piper summarizes Jonathan Edwards explanation of this particular antimomy as “God’s moral government over mankind, his treating them as moral agents, making them objects of his commands, counsels, calls, warnings, promises, threatenings, rewards, and punishments, **is not inconsistent** with determining the disposal of all events, of every kind, throughout the universe, in his providence; either **by positive efficiency, or permission**.”

(2 Chron.20:6) “Oh Lord, God of our fathers, are you not God in Heaven? You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations. In your hand are power and might, so that none is able to withstand you.

(Daniel 4:35) Nebuchadnezzar to God—“...none can stay your hand or say to you, what have you done?”

“ Despite his control, God is not and cannot be the author of sin. God has conferred responsibility on moral agents for their thoughts, words, and deeds according to his justice.(from the Reformed Study Bible ESV “ Divine Sovereignty

Antimomy Illustrated:

Joshua was chosen (elected) by God, yet asked “ Choose this day, whom you will serve!” *Joshua 24:15*

Jewish Leaders addressed by Peter in Acts regarding Jesus—“This man was handed over **to you** by God’s deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and **you**, with the help of wicked men, **put him to death** by nailing him to the cross.” *Acts 2:23*

Mankind is a Lump of Clay, Made Good, Now Tainted

Left Alone- We are fitted for Holy God’s wrathful destruction —PASSIVE God’s **JUSTICE** would damn us all!

In Election We are _Prepared for Glory!- God **ACTIVELY**(in sanctification) fits us for heaven as image bearing vessels for his glory **by His MERCY**.

God’s glory is displayed in BOTH Salvation and Wrath.

vs.22—God truly “ is love” demonstrated through Jesus’s suffering and by His patience with our acceptance of His mercy—Jews and Gentiles.

Hope for “Vessels of Dishonor”

vs. 2Timothy 2:20-21—“ Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from what is dishonorable, he will be a vessel for honorable use, set apart as holy, useful to the master.

Riches of Glory for “Vessels of Mercy”

He set His love on us! Mercy originates from God’s good pleasure from eternity! God’s kindness is meant to lead to repentance.

2 Why Are Jews Rejecting the Gospel? Has God Failed?

Is our salvation secure if the Jews have been set aside?

vs.6-13 **Promise Broken? NO**

God never promised to save the physical seed of Israel; always **believers only. God has always chosen individuals from the Jews.**

vs. 14-24 **God’s Character False? NO**

God is unchangeably **all powerful, righteous and merciful.**

Hebrews 6 —vs. 13 *“When God made a promise to Abraham, since he had no greater one to swear by, he swore by himself...and thus, Abraham, having patiently waited, obtained the promise.”*

vs. 17-*“So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he guaranteed it with an oath so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us. **We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.**”*

vs. 25-29 **Plan Changed? Prophets Wrong? NO**

Hosea’s Children were named : Jezreel (Scattered), Lo-Ruhamah(Not Pitied or Not Loved), and Lo-Ammi (Not My People) describing the history of the Jews in their cyclical rebellion.

The Old Covenant from Eternity has preserved the believing Jews: the Remnant.

This **remnant** gave and gives vital witness to ALL of God’s beloved, Jew and Gentile, then, now, and in the **future.**

vs.30-33 **Prerequisite for Salvation Changed? NO!!!!!!**

It has ALWAYS BEEN FAITH !

3 God’s Word Through Paul, “ Shows us the Money!”

When you ‘show someone the money’ you are agreeing to the value of something; **that is WORTH THE COST.**

While still in our sin God offers us the **BEST**—

God offers **HIMSELF/HIS ONLY SON**.

This is the **MERCY** we must have in order to participate in his unfathomable glory.

In the sacrament of holy communion, we celebrate with wine, what Jesus knew as blood.

Jews missed Jesus's indispensable VALUE.

Jesus was the stumbling stone in their way.

- chose to pay the cost of their salvation by their self-righteous obedience to the Law, a failure they were stubbornly blind to recognize ,they couldn't humble themselves to accept a free pardon
- they claimed false validation of their salvation through their lineage, the prophets, editing their warnings
- looked for the wrong Messiah—a political king

4 The Testimony of the Stone

Sure Hope for the Jewish Remnant

F. F. Bruce says that the early church in Rome stood on **three testimoniums** (legal term for "*in witness of*") based on scripture regarding the stone.

- 1) **righteous remnant** -the hope of the future, which is embodied personally in the promised prince of the house of David (Jesus)
- 2) The **stone** (Jesus Christ) that the builders (Israel) rejected has become the **cornerstone** of the church. (see Psalm 118:22)
- 3) From Daniel's interpretation of King Nebuchadnezzar's dream. (Daniel:2:34-35)
 - "...as you looked, a stone was cut out by no human hand.
 - "... but the stone struck the image and became a great mountain and filled the earth.
 - "the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor shall the kingdom be left to another people. It shall break to pieces all these kingdoms and bring them to an end, **and it shall stand forever.**

5 Proof and Patience

We as believers have full confidence in God's purpose and timing.

"Behold, I am the one who has laid as a foundation in Zion, a stone, a tested a tested stone, a precious cornerstone of a sure foundation: Whoever believes in me will not be in haste, and I will make justice the line, righteousness the plum line; the hail will sweep away the lies, and the waters

will overflow the hiding place. Your covenant with death shall be annulled, and agreement with Sheol, will not stand..." (Isaiah 28:16-18)

With God's free gift of mercy

"...whoever believes in him, will not be put to shame." (Rom.9:33)

Let us rest and rejoice in humble assurance.

Resources:

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