

(9:19) - THOU WILT SAY THEN UNTO ME, WHY DOTHE HE YET FIND FAULT? FOR WHO HATH RESISTED HIS WILL? - God's absolute sovereignty may be difficult for us to grasp, but it reveals the glory of God in the salvation of sinners by His grace in Christ Jesus. If it were not for God's sovereignty, there would be no hope for any sinner. The natural man will not receive and believe these truths of the Spirit of God. And so the objection is raised - "**Why doth He yet find fault?**" If God shows mercy to some and no one can resist His sovereign will, how can He find fault with sinners? "**For who hath resisted His will?**" - By nature, we all resist God's REVEALED will by way of commandment. This is called sin. God commands all of us to love Him supremely and love our neighbor as ourselves. We all have, and do, sin and come short of God's revealed will in these commandments. But here Paul is speaking of God's SOVEREIGN will which cannot be broken or hindered by us. It involves the secret things that belong to God alone and which are only revealed to us after the fact. This is why we are told that "**the secret things belong unto the LORD our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law**" (Deut. 29:29). We are told that God is always working "**all things after the counsel of His own will**" (Eph. 1:11; cf. Isa. 46:9-11).

So, God holds us accountable, not for these secret things that are hidden from us, but for the things He reveals to us. This may be difficult for us to comprehend, but this is how God tells us to view and accept these matters of His sovereign will and His revealed will (Gen. 50:17-20; Acts 2:22-23; 4:26-28). In all this we are told from God's Word that - (1) We cannot charge God with sin or injustice. God is so much higher and wiser than we are, and He alone has the power and wisdom to overrule evil for good (Rom. 8:28). All that God is and does is right. (2) We cannot relieve ourselves of our responsibility to seek the Lord and obey Him. But the question is raised - If the sin and wrath of man are so under God's control that they too serve His ultimate purpose, how can we be blamed? Paul anticipates this in the next question - "**Why doth He yet find fault? For who hath resisted His will?**"

(9:20) - NAY BUT, O MAN, WHO ART THOU THAT REPLIEST AGAINST GOD? SHALL THE THING FORMED SAY TO HIM THAT FORMED IT, WHY HAST THOU MADE ME THUS? - Who are we to debate with God? How foolish and arrogant for a finite and sinful creature to sit in judgment on God's ways. The answer as to why God does what He does is found in Himself for His own glory and not in our natural wisdom. We must understand that God operates upon the plane of His own eternity and sovereignty. All things come about because they are "**... predestinated according to the purpose of Him who worketh all things after the counsel of His own will:**" (Eph. 1:11). In this, there are secrets we do not know because God has not revealed them to us. Again, "**the secret things belong unto the Lord our God ...**" (Deut. 29:29a). We must operate upon the plane of our own limitations and responsibility - "**... but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law**" (Deut. 29:29b). The fact that we cannot weave both truths into the fabric of our own human understanding does not allow us to deny either one. Do not despair or remain in disbelief over the things God has NOT revealed. Consider what God HAS revealed:

(1) God has revealed that He is holy and just, and He MUST punish all sin where sin is imputed (charged) to sinful people. He MUST act in strict justice towards them (Deut.

32:3-4; Job 34:12; Psalm 5:1-6; 9:7; Ezek. 18:4,20; Rom. 2:2). This is because the **“the wages of sin is death” (Rom. 6:23a).**

(2) God has revealed that we are all sinners who are void of the righteousness He requires to save and justify us (**Rom. 3:10**). We are all sinners who have earned and deserve nothing but God’s wrath (**Rom. 3:23**). God has revealed that if He gave any of us what we have earned or deserved, it would be eternal damnation and death (**Psalm 130:3**). God has revealed that we can never do enough to work the righteousness He requires to save us, not even by our best efforts (**Rom. 3:19-20**).

(3) God has revealed that He has freely provided all the righteousness He requires for the salvation and justification of sinners by His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, Who is God manifest in the flesh, and Who stood as Surety for His people (**Isa. 46:12-13; 53:10-12; Rom. 3:21-26; 6:23b**). God has revealed that He sent His Son into the world to stand in place of His people and die for their sin charged to Him to satisfy the justice of God against them (**Isa. 53:4-6; 1 Pet. 3:18**). God has revealed that all the righteousness He requires of His people is found in the merits of Christ’s obedience unto death and which He has imputed (charged) to His people (**2 Cor. 5:18-21**).

(4) God has revealed that if left to our own wills, our own choice, because of our sinfulness and self-righteousness, we will not choose Him or His way of salvation; we will not believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and rely totally upon Him and His work for our whole salvation. God has revealed that because of our depravity, we will not submit to Christ as all our righteousness (**Rom. 3:11-12; 1 Cor. 2:12-14**).

(5) God has revealed that before the foundation of the world, He chose a people in Christ to save by His grace based on the righteousness Christ would come in time and accomplish for them by His obedience unto death (**Eph. 1:3-12; 2 Tim. 1:9**). God has revealed that they will ALL be saved (**John 6:37-45**)! God has not given us a list of their names and addresses. But God has told us that they will be identified and distinguished as He sends the Holy Spirit to bring them under the preaching of the Gospel and to give them spiritual life in the new birth whereupon they will ALL call upon the name of the Lord. They will ALL believe the Gospel of God’s grace in Christ (**1 Thess. 1:4-5; 2 Thess. 2:13-14**). So, God has commanded sinners to repent and believe the Gospel, to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, to seek the Lord and call upon His name (**Acts 17:30-31**).

The Bible teaches that all whom God has chosen shall believe in the Lord Jesus Christ (**2 Thess. 2:13-14**). It also teaches, **“For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved” (Rom. 10:13)**. Sinners have no reason not to believe God or even to hesitate by wondering if they are elect or not. Sinners are commanded to trust Christ for all salvation. Our Lord said, **“All that the Father giveth Me shall come to Me; and him that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out” (John 6:37)**. Now, who are we to debate with God? **“Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, Why hast thou made me thus?”** God is the sovereign Creator. We are mere creatures. What right do we have to question God’s authority and rule over this universe, including ourselves? Are we so proud and self-promoting that we think we can rise to God’s level and debate with Him over the issues of creation and life? So, the answer is a solid, **“NO!”** God created us and deals with us for His glory. The problem is not that we have questions on these matters, but that we refuse to accept God’s answers in His Word. The arrogance of sinful man comes when he thinks he knows better than God and when he lifts himself up to deny the God of the Bible and worship one such as himself.