

“God’s Vindication of His Righteousness, Part 3”

A Study of the Book of Romans

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Key Truth: God vindicates his righteousness by showing that his divine will has a transformative purpose.

When God gets ahold of us, we go from worthless to priceless. We were created in the image of God, but our sin has destroyed us. We have become like broken pots, useless and worthless. However, in Christ, God, the divine Potter, saves us and puts us back together in a new way. We go from worthless to priceless, from broken to precious, because our lives, having been redeemed by the blood of the Lamb, who was crushed for our iniquity, take on new meaning and value. We go from enemies of God to “sons of the living God” (v. 26).

DISCUSS

Read **Romans 9:19-26** and discuss with the group a statement or concept that stood out to you or impacted you in part three of the sermon entitled “**God’s Vindication of His Righteousness.**”

DIG IN

1. God’s Sovereignty as the Potter. (Romans 9:19-21)

What is the objection that Paul anticipates in verse 19? Why might someone draw that conclusion from the previous verses?

According to verses 20-21, what is the scope or extent of God’s sovereignty as the Potter over the clay?

Read Isaiah 29:16: In what ways do we sometimes try to fashion God into our own image? Give examples.

2. God’s Patience and Plan. (Romans 9:22-23)

Why would God desire to show his wrath (v. 22)? What does that reveal about his nature and character?

Compare the two phrases: “prepared for destruction” (v. 22) and “prepared beforehand for glory” (v. 23). Does this mean that God ordains some for salvation and some for damnation? Why or why not? What was said in the sermon to backup your answer?

Why do you think God would want to “make known the riches of his glory for vessels of mercy” (v. 23)?

3. God’s Transformative Purpose. (Romans 9:24-26)

In what ways does the imagery of God as divine Potter speak of God’s transformative purpose (see Jeremiah 18:1-6)?

In what ways does Hosea, as quoted by Paul in verses 25-26 speak of God’s plan for Jews and Gentiles? Why is it important that Jews and Gentiles be brought together according to God’s transformative purpose (see Ephesians 2:13-16)?

In what ways does Isaiah 64:6-8 give us encouragement as we think of God as the divine Potter?

DO

What lessons do you learn from these verses that you will take with you throughout the coming week?