**I Will Call Them My People**

**by Pastor Fee Soliven**

**Romans 9:22-26**

**Wednesday Evening**

**October 2, 2024**

**Romans 9:22-26**

22 What if God, wanting to show His wrath and to make His power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, 23 and that He might make known the riches of His glory on the vessels of mercy, which He had prepared beforehand for glory, 24 even us whom He called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles?

25 As He says also in Hosea: "I will call them My people, who were not My people, And her beloved, who was not beloved." 26 "And it shall come to pass in the place where it was said to them, 'You are not My people,' There they shall be called sons of the living God."

**22 What if God, wanting to show His wrath and to make His power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath prepared for destruction,**

Saints, the objects of his judgment are nonbelievers, and especially, in context, Jewish nonbelievers.

God has been patient with their antagonism, rebellion, blasphemy, and hatred because he is giving them time to repent.

**2 Peter 3:1-9**

1 Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle (in both of which I stir up your pure minds by way of reminder), 2 that you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior,

3 knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, 4 and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation." 5 For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water,

6 by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water. 7 But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. 8 But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

9 The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

But those who refuse to repent are fit only for destruction. Their doom is coming.

They have rebelled and refused to turn to God for salvation, and thus have taken responsibility for their own destruction.

**Romans 1:18-22**

18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, 19 because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them.

20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,

21 because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Professing to be wise, they became fools…

Saints, God has every right to exercise his judgment and his power.

Without God’s mercy and great patience, shown to us completely apart from our performance, we would have no hope at all.

If God did not do this for his own purposes, we would be instantly destroyed.

**23 and that He might make known the riches of His glory on the vessels of mercy, which He had prepared beforehand for glory,**

Saints, in contrast, the objects of his mercy are believers, both Jews and Gentiles. To these he will pour out the riches of his glory.

This is God’s sovereign choosing when he works with “pots” prepared for destruction or with “pots” prepared for glory.

The key point to remember is that all this has been in God’s plan from the beginning.

**Ephesians 1:7-11**

7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace 8 which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence, 9 having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself,

10 that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth--in Him. 11 In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will…

When God’s dealings with his creation have been summed up, there will not be a shred of doubt about his wrath, power, and glory.

God did not change his plans just because his people were disobedient.

Instead, God knew all that would happen to both Jews and Gentiles, and God does everything to display his great mercy.

**24 even us whom He called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles?**

Saints, believers still may wonder why they would be chosen while others were rejected.

Paul’s point is that God is sovereign and that no one has any claim on his mercy. He prepared us in advance by his gift of salvation,

and he will reveal his glory when we are finally with him for eternity.

**John 3:16-21**

16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. 17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

18 He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. 19 And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

20 For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. 21 But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God."

Instead of focusing on God choosing some and rejecting others, we should stand in awe at God’s offer of grace to any of us.

Thus, no one can demand that God explain why he does what he does. He makes all the rules.

But he loves to show mercy to us—what an amazing God he is!

**25 As He says also in Hosea: "I will call them My people, who were not My people, And her beloved, who was not beloved."**

Saints, to back up the statement that God also calls the Gentiles,

Paul quoted two verses from the prophet Hosea. Several hundred years before Jesus’ birth,

Hosea told of God’s intention to bring Gentiles into his family after the Jews would reject his plan.

God was not surprised by Israel’s rejection.

Israel thought that they alone were God’s chosen because of their lineage and their laws.

But God’s plan never was to save only the Jews. His call was for people from all nations.

Verse 25 is a quotation from Hosea 2:23, and verse 26 is from Hosea 1:10.

**Hosea 2:23**

Then I will sow her for Myself in the earth, And I will have mercy on her who had not obtained mercy; Then I will say to those who were not My people, 'You are My people!' And they shall say, 'You are my God!' "

**Hosea 1:10**

"Yet the number of the children of Israel Shall be as the sand of the sea, Which cannot be measured or numbered. And it shall come to pass In the place where it was said to them, 'You are not My people,' There it shall be said to them, 'You are sons of the living God.'

**26 "And it shall come to pass in the place where it was said to them, 'You are not My people,' There they shall be called sons of the living God."**

Saints, Hosea’s situation and his children’s names pictured God’s attitude toward Israel—they had turned away from him and were no longer called his people or his loved ones.

But God would not let this situation remain forever; one day he would call Israel back to himself.

God would also turn to the Gentiles, those who are outside his chosen nation.

**Isaiah 49:6**

Indeed He says, 'It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant To raise up the tribes of Jacob, And to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also give You as a light to the Gentiles, That You should be My salvation to the ends of the earth.'"

Someday, many Gentiles would be considered God’s people, his loved ones, his children.

Paul saw that while God’s plan had always made room for the Gentiles, with the advent of Christ, the doors to the Kingdom were opened wide.

**Romans 1:16-17**

16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. 17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "The just shall live by faith."

Those not known as God’s people were becoming his people by God’s mercy and grace, shown through Christ.

Soon and Very soon, Jesus is about to appear, we are almost out of here!

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

13 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

**1 Corinthians 15:50-54**

50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed-- 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."

**Short Movie Slide>**

**Acts 2:38-39**

38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

**Let’s Pray!**

**Benediction**

**"May The LORD bless you and keep you, May The LORD make His face shine upon you, May The LORD be gracious to you, May The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you His (Shalom) peace!**