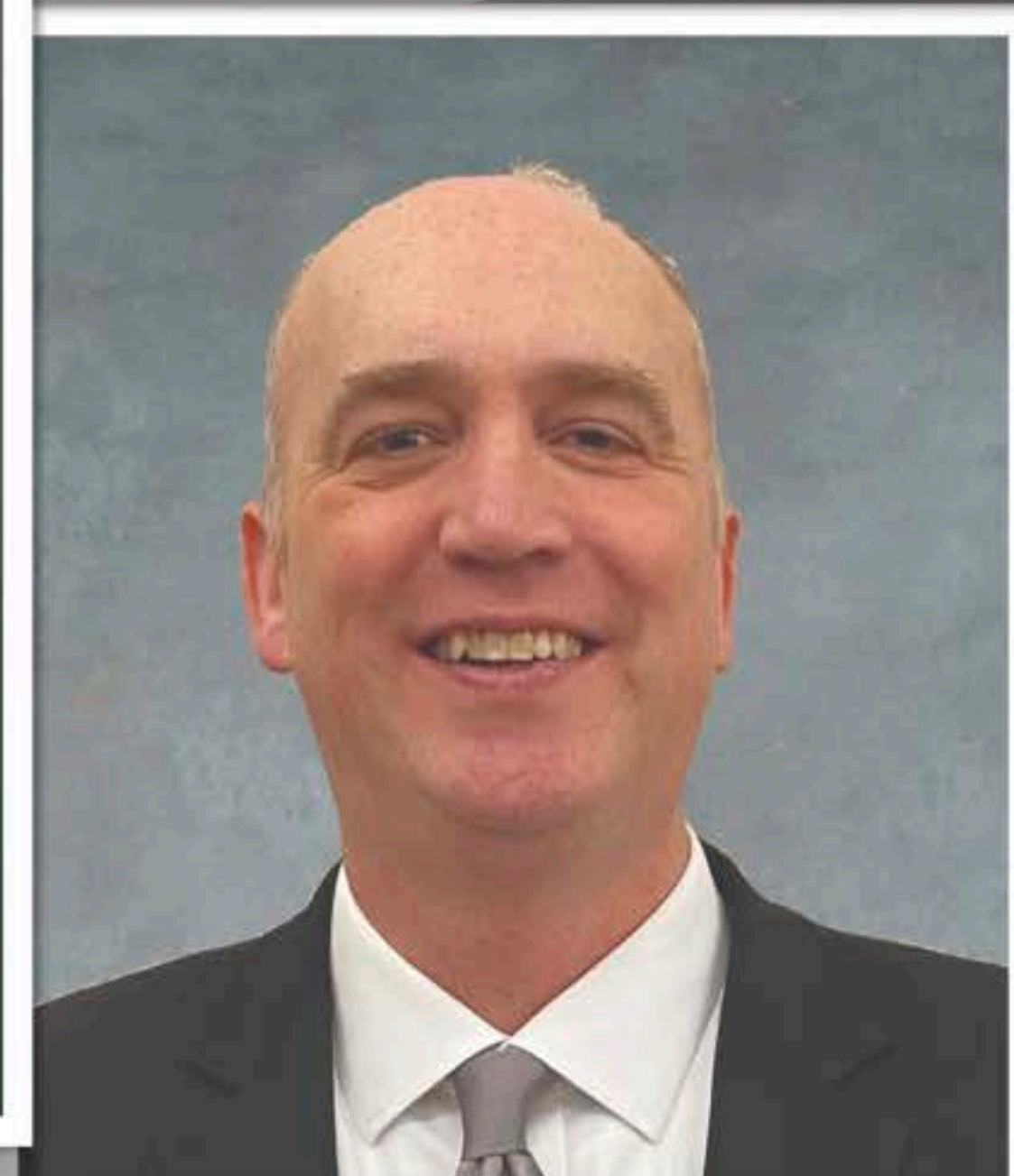


PROPOSITION

“The Scriptures teach that God chose, from the foundation of the world, a definite number of people to be saved, not on the basis of anything foreseen in them, but solely on the basis of His own purpose and grace.”



AFFIRM: JOEL ELLIS



DENY: BRUCE REEVES

ROMANS CHAPTER 9



The inspired response to those who would restrict God's mercy to fleshly Israel

God's gracious promise of mercy to all cannot be revoked by the unbelieving Jew.

ROMANS CHAPTER 9



This is election to **SERVICE**, NOT personal salvation

This is **EXPANSION** of **MERCY**, NOT restriction of mercy

ROMANS CHAPTER 9

Romans 9:1–5 (NASB95)

¹ I am telling the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience testifies with me in the Holy Spirit, ² that I have great sorrow and unceasing grief in my heart. ³ For I could wish that I myself were accursed, *separated* from Christ for the sake of my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh, ⁴ who are Israelites, to whom belongs the adoption as sons, and the glory and the covenants and the giving of the Law and the *temple* service and the promises, ⁵ whose are the fathers, and from whom is the Christ according to the flesh, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen.

God's election of national Israel was for the purpose of offering salvation to the whole world through Christ!
(Gen. 12:3,4; Rom. 1:2,3; 3:1; 11:28)

ROMANS CHAPTER 9

THE FIRST JEWISH OBJECTION TO THE GOSPEL

If the Gospel is true . . .

*“God Has Been
Unfaithful To His
Promises To Us!”*

Answer:

Romans 9:6 (NASB95)

⁶ But *it is* not as though the word of God has failed. For they are not all Israel who are *descended* from Israel;

God's Word Did Not Fail, His
Purpose Was Fulfilled
Through Israel in Christ
(Romans 9:6-13)

THREE VIEWS OF ELECTION

INDIVIDUAL UNCONDITIONAL ELECTION TO SALVATION



God unconditionally chose certain individuals to receive a special, irresistible grace which would cause them to believe and thus be saved.

INDIVIDUAL AND NATIONAL ELECTION TO SERVICE



God chose certain individuals and nations to serve a purpose in His redemptive plan, and these persons were chosen without regard to their morality or personal worth.

CORPORATE ELECTION TO SALVATION (IN CHRIST)



God chose Christ in eternity, and decided beforehand that the faithful in Christ Jesus would be His chosen people, adopted as His children, and conformed to the image of His Son.

ROMANS CHAPTER 9

THE FIRST JEWISH OBJECTION TO THE GOSPEL

“God Has Been Unfaithful To His Promises To Us!”

Romans 9:6–9 (NASB95)

⁶ But *it is* not as though the word of God has failed. For they are not all Israel who are *descended* from Israel; ⁷ nor are they all children because they are Abraham’s descendants, but: “through Isaac your descendants will be named.” ⁸ That is, it is not the children of the flesh who are children of God, but the children of the promise are regarded as descendants. ⁹ For this is the word of promise: “At this time I will come, and Sarah shall have a son.”

- ▶ The criteria for being benefactors of the promise is not based on fleshly descent (cf. John 8:33,39).
- ▶ The benefactors of the Abrahamic promise are those who are of faith, i.e., who believe in the Messiah (Gal 3:7-29).

ROMANS CHAPTER 9

THE FIRST JEWISH OBJECTION TO THE GOSPEL

“God Has Been Unfaithful To His Promises To Us!”

Romans 9:6–9 (NASB95)

⁶ But *it is* not as though the word of God has failed. For they are not all Israel who are *descended* from Israel; ⁷ nor are they all children because they are Abraham’s descendants, but: “through Isaac your descendants will be named.” ⁸ That is, it is not the children of the flesh who are children of God, but the children of the promise are regarded as descendants. ⁹ For this is the word of promise: “At this time I will come, and Sarah shall have a son.”

- ▶ Calvinists assume “the children of the promise” refers to individual unconditional election to salvation.
- ▶ Paul’s use of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob was to emphasize them as facilitators of the promise.

ROMANS CHAPTER 9

THE FIRST JEWISH OBJECTION TO THE GOSPEL

“God Has Been Unfaithful To His Promises To Us!”

Romans 9:6–9 (NASB95)

⁶ But *it is* not as though the word of God has failed. For they are not all Israel who are *descended* from Israel; ⁷ nor are they all children because they are Abraham’s descendants, but: “through Isaac your descendants will be named.” ⁸ That is, it is not the children of the flesh who are children of God, but the children of the promise are regarded as descendants. ⁹ For this is the word of promise: “At this time I will come, and Sarah shall have a son.”

▶ The context defines the children of the promise as being those who choose faith in the Messiah, (the Seed), (Rom. 9:30,33; 10:4,6,9,10,12-17).

ROMANS CHAPTER 9

THE FIRST JEWISH OBJECTION TO THE GOSPEL

“God Has Been Unfaithful To His Promises To Us!”

Romans 9:10–13 (NASB95)

¹⁰ And not only this, but there was Rebekah also, when she had conceived *twins* by one man, our father Isaac; ¹¹ for though *the twins* were not yet born and had not done anything good or bad, so that God’s purpose according to *His* choice would stand, not because of works but because of Him who calls, ¹² it was said to her, “The older will serve the younger.” ¹³ Just as it is written, “Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated.”

► The choice of God in accordance with His divine purpose, (to bless all nations through the seed of Abraham), would stand through the lineage of Jacob, not Esau.

CALVINISM - CONTRADICTORY & INCONSISTENT

“Yes, your neighbor first made the choice, but his decision has consequences”
(43:00)

“God is not the reason that anyone is lost, sin is the reason people are lost”
(43:22)



Pastor Joel Ellis

“... You have something to boast about ... you are going to be able to look at your neighbor who is condemned and ... say ... ‘you had your chance ... you should have believed, you should have repented.’”

Divine Election and Reprobation - Lesson 2b
Recorded: April 24, 2024
Series: The Canons of Dort
Bible Text: Romans 9:33

The Gospel In Romans:
Romans 9:14-26
31:32-32:04
Feb 23, 2015

ROMANS CHAPTER 9

THE SECOND JEWISH OBJECTION TO THE GOSPEL

“God Is UNJUST In His Dealings With Us!”

Romans 9:14–18 (NASB95)

¹⁴ What shall we say then? There is no injustice with God, is there? May it never be! ¹⁵ For He says to Moses, “I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.” ¹⁶ So then it *does not depend* on the man who wills or the man who runs, but on God who has mercy. ¹⁷ For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, “For this very purpose I raised you up, to demonstrate My power in you, and that My name might be proclaimed throughout the whole earth.” ¹⁸ So then He has mercy on whom He desires, and He hardens whom He desires.

This passage is expressing God's willingness and right to extend His mercy to all men that they may seek Him by faith, [After all, God had historically extended mercy to Israel].

(Ex. 33:4-23; Rom. 10:20,21)

ROMANS CHAPTER 9

“For this very purpose I raised you up, to demonstrate My power in you, and that My name might be proclaimed throughout the whole earth.”

God Hardened Pharaoh's heart

Exodus 10:1 (NASB95)

¹ Then the Lord said to Moses, “Go to Pharaoh, for I have hardened his heart and the heart of his servants, that I may perform these signs of Mine among them,



Pharaoh Hardened his own heart

Exodus 9:34 (NASB95)

³⁴ But when Pharaoh saw that the rain and the hail and the thunder had ceased, he sinned again and hardened his heart, he and his servants.

ROMANS CHAPTER 9

“For this very purpose I raised you up, to demonstrate My power in you, and that My name might be proclaimed throughout the whole earth.”



- The Lord confronts Pharaoh through Moses and sent the plagues.
- Pharaoh responds by refusing the Lord's demand.
- Pharaoh hardened his own heart and rebelled against God.
- The Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart, in that He provided the occasion.

ROMANS CHAPTER 9

PHARAOH & ISRAEL



God raised both up
Both rejected God's word
God hardened both
through His word & mercy
God's purpose was not
thwarted by their rebellion



ROMANS CHAPTER 9

God is NOT FAIR in His dealings with us!

■ From a Calvinistic perspective, the objector is seen as someone who resists God's, meticulous, deterministic sovereignty, in unconditionally electing certain individuals to salvation.

CALVINISTS

MISINTERPRET THE CONTEXT ITSELF.

MISUNDERSTAND THE OBJECTOR'S QUESTION.

MISAPPLY PAUL'S RESPONSE TO THE OBJECTOR.

IMPORT UNBIBLICAL PRESUPPOSITIONS INTO THE TEXT.

ROMANS CHAPTER 9

THE THIRD JEWISH OBJECTION TO THE GOSPEL

God is NOT FAIR in His dealings with us!



It is only by divorcing vv. 10-24 from the surrounding context that this passage has been interpreted primarily in terms of unconditional individual election.

ROMANS CHAPTER 9

THE THIRD JEWISH OBJECTION TO THE GOSPEL

God is NOT FAIR in His dealings with us!



Jeremiah 18:1–12 (NASB95)

¹ The word which came to Jeremiah from the Lord saying, ² “Arise and go down to the potter’s house, and there I will announce My words to you.” ³ Then I went down to the potter’s house, and there he was, making something on the wheel. ⁴ But the vessel that he was making of clay was spoiled in the hand of the potter; so he remade it into another vessel, as it pleased the potter to make.

ROMANS CHAPTER 9

THE THIRD JEWISH OBJECTION TO THE GOSPEL

God is NOT FAIR in His dealings with us!



Jeremiah 18:1–12 (NASB95)

⁵ Then the word of the Lord came to me saying, ⁶ “Can I not, O house of Israel, deal with you as this potter *does?*” declares the Lord. “Behold, like the clay in the potter’s hand, so are you in My hand, O house of Israel. ⁷ “At one moment I might speak concerning a nation or concerning a kingdom to uproot, to pull down, or to destroy *it*;

ROMANS CHAPTER 9

THE THIRD JEWISH OBJECTION TO THE GOSPEL

God is NOT FAIR in His dealings with us!



Jeremiah 18:1–12 (NASB95)

⁸ if that nation against which I have spoken turns from its evil, I will relent concerning the calamity I planned to bring on it. ⁹ “Or at another moment I might speak concerning a nation or concerning a kingdom to build up or to plant *it*; ¹⁰ if it does evil in My sight by not obeying My voice, then I will think better of the good with which I had promised to bless it.

ROMANS CHAPTER 9

THE THIRD JEWISH OBJECTION TO THE GOSPEL

God is NOT FAIR in His dealings with us!



Jeremiah 18:1–12 (NASB95)

¹¹ “So now then, speak to the men of Judah and against the inhabitants of Jerusalem saying, ‘Thus says the Lord, “Behold, I am fashioning calamity against you and devising a plan against you. Oh turn back, each of you from his evil way, and reform your ways and your deeds.” ’ ¹² “But they will say, ‘It’s hopeless! For we are going to follow our own plans, and each of us will act according to the stubbornness of his evil heart.’ (cf. *Jer. 2:25; Rom. 10:1-3*)

ROMANS CHAPTER 9

THE THIRD JEWISH OBJECTION TO THE GOSPEL

God is NOT FAIR in His dealings with us!



2 Timothy 2:20–21 (NASB95)

²⁰ Now in a large house there are not only gold and silver vessels, but also vessels of wood and of earthenware, and some to honor and some to dishonor. ²¹ Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from these *things*, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified, useful to the Master, prepared for every good work.

ROMANS CHAPTER 9

THE THIRD JEWISH OBJECTION TO THE GOSPEL

God is NOT FAIR in His dealings with us!



- The image is that of the vessel of dishonor blaming its position on the potter, rather than humbly submitting to God.
- The Potter determines the standard or criteria of acceptance, i.e., vessel of honor or vessel of dishonor.

ROMANS CHAPTER 9

THE THIRD JEWISH OBJECTION TO THE GOSPEL

God is NOT FAIR in His dealings with us!

Romans 9:22–24 (NASB95)

²² What if God, although willing to demonstrate His wrath and to make His power known, endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction? ²³ And *He did so* to make known the riches of His glory upon vessels of mercy, which He prepared beforehand for glory, ²⁴ *even* us, whom He also called, not from among Jews only, but also from among Gentiles.

Paul exonerates God's treatment of unfaithful ethnic Israel.

God has preserved circumstances and the freedom of will to use even vessels of wrath to offer mercy to all.

ROMANS CHAPTER 9

THE THIRD JEWISH OBJECTION TO THE GOSPEL

God is NOT FAIR in His dealings with us!

Romans 9:22–24 (NASB95)

²² What if God, although willing to demonstrate His wrath and to make His power known, endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction? ²³ And *He did so* to make known the riches of His glory upon vessels of mercy, which He prepared beforehand for glory, ²⁴ *even* us, whom He also called, not from among Jews only, but also from among Gentiles.

Did GOD prepare the vessels of wrath for destruction by **MAKING** them **EVIL**?

Is God the first cause of the vessels of wrath becoming vessels of wrath? (Rom. 2:4-11)

ROMANS CHAPTER 9

THE THIRD JEWISH OBJECTION TO THE GOSPEL

God is NOT FAIR in His dealings with us!

Romans 9:22 (NASB95)

²² What if God, although willing to demonstrate His wrath and to make His power known, endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction?

1 Thessalonians 2:15–16 (NASB95)

¹⁵ who both killed the Lord Jesus and the prophets, and drove us out. They are not pleasing to God, but hostile to all men, ¹⁶ hindering us from speaking to the Gentiles so that they may be saved; **with the result that they always fill up the measure of their sins.** But wrath has come upon them to the utmost.

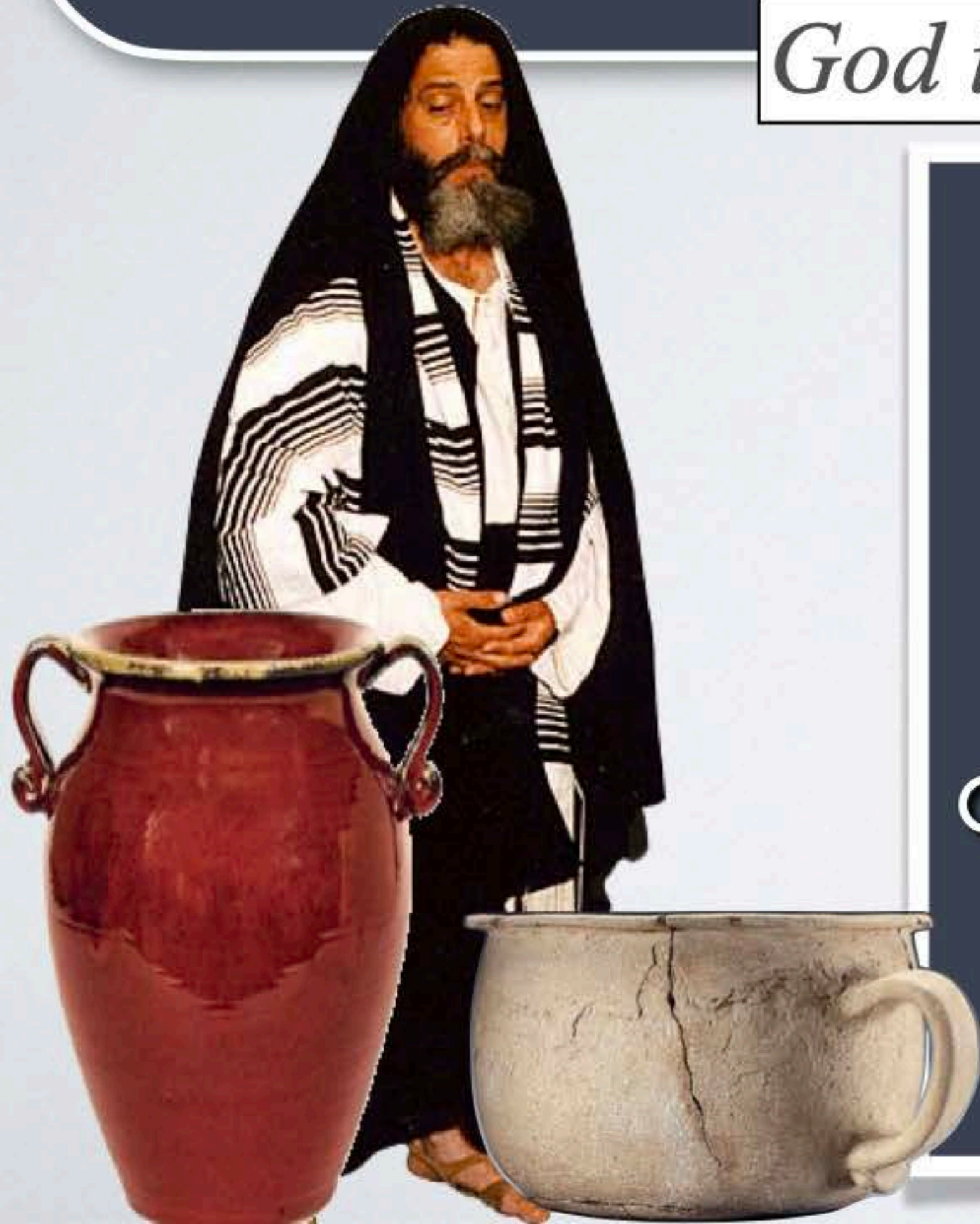
ROMANS CHAPTER 9

THE THIRD JEWISH OBJECTION TO THE GOSPEL

God is NOT FAIR in His dealings with us!

The nature of the categories /classes, i.e. “vessels of his mercy” and “vessels of his wrath,” is unchanging.

But, the inclusion of an individual in either category / class is based on that individual’s own response to the offer of grace
(Rom 10:1-3; 11:22)



ROMANS CHAPTER 9

These categories are NOT dependent on nationality

UNBELIEVERS

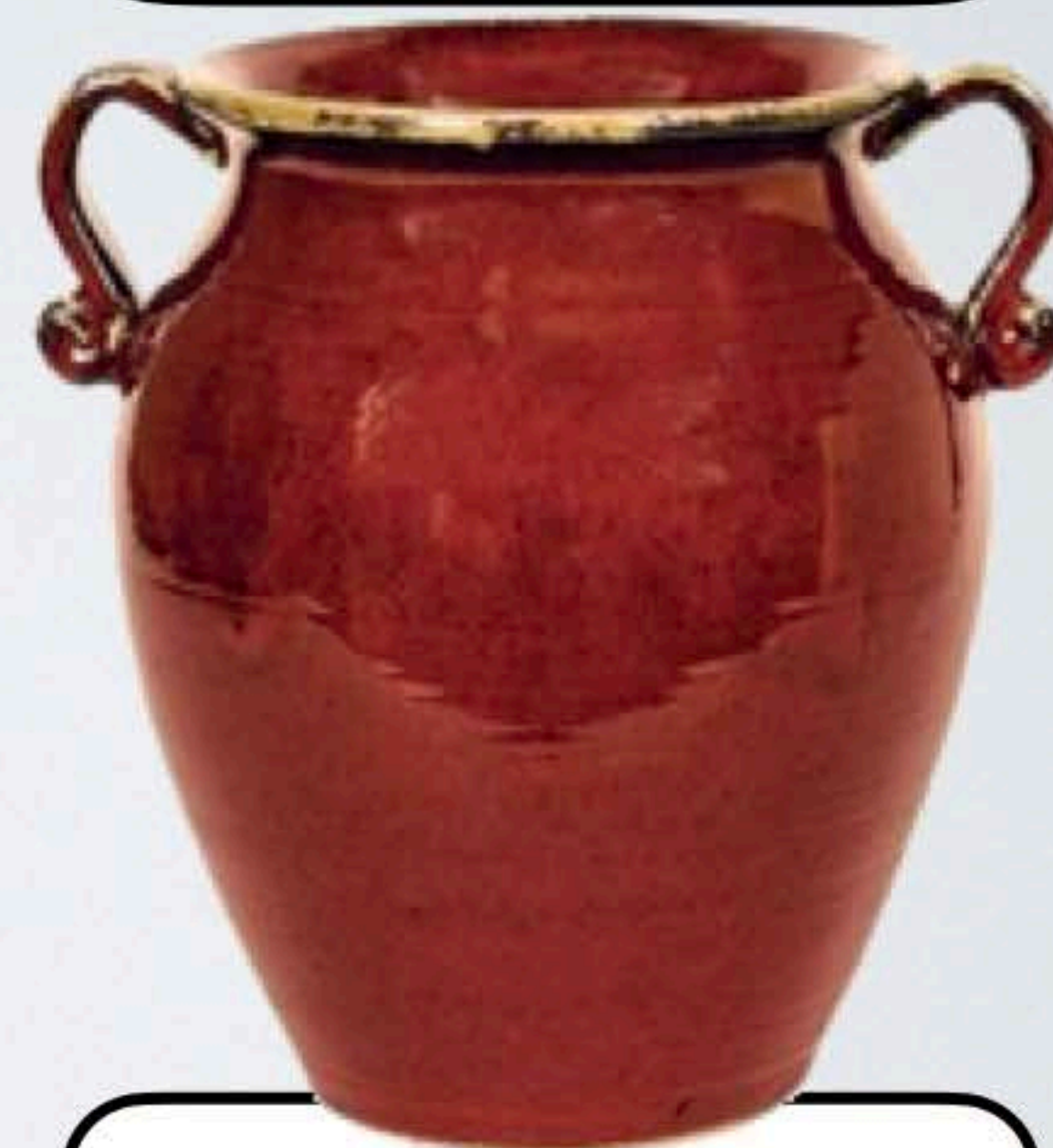


**VESSELS OF
DISHONOR**

The nature of the categories / classes, i.e. “vessels of his mercy” and “vessels of his wrath,” is unchanging.

But, the inclusion of an individual in either category / class is based on that individual’s own response to the offer of grace (Rom 10:1-3; 11:22)

BELIEVERS



**VESSELS OF
HONOR**

CONSEQUENCES OF UNCONDITIONAL ELECTION & THE CALVINISTIC VIEW OF PREDESTINATION

- **God Does NOT Redemptively Love All Men** - The large majority of men are born “foreordained” to eternal destruction (2 Pet 3:9; 1 Tim 2:4)
- **God Is A Respector Of Persons** – chooses one sinner and condemns many others arbitrarily and capriciously (Acts 10:34)
- **God Is Unjust** – Condemns men for what He predetermined that they do, without them having libertarian freewill to do otherwise (2 Cor. 5:10)
- **Everything Is Unchangeably Foreordained – EVEN EVERY SIN!**
“God is the first cause of ALL EVIL!”

HIGHER VIEW OF SOVEREIGNTY?

“God... brings about all things in accordance with his will. In other words, it isn't just that God manages to turn the evil aspects of our world to good for those who love him; it is rather that He Himself brings about these evil aspects for his glory and his people's good. This includes—as incredible and as unacceptable as it may currently seem—God's having even brought about the Nazis' brutality at Birkenau and Auschwitz as well as the terrible killings of Dennis Rader and even the sexual abuse of a young child...”

Mark Talbot, edited by John Piper and Justin Taylor, *Suffering and the Sovereignty of God*, (Wheaton, Ill: Crossway Books, 2006) 41-42

DesiringGod.org

“All the Good that Is Ours in Christ: Seeing God's Gracious Hand in the Hurt Others Do to Us”