

## The Book of Romans 9:14-18

### Key Phrases

- ✓ *Is there unrighteousness with God?:* Is there an issue with God being \_\_\_\_\_?
- ✓ *Mercy:* God's compassionate withholding of deserved \_\_\_\_\_ and His bestowal of kindness and favor.
- ✓ *Not of him who wills... but of God who shows mercy:* A reference to God's \_\_\_\_\_.
- ✓ *Grace:* God's unmerited favor and love extended to humanity, offering \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
- ✓ *For this purpose I have raised you up:* God had purposely placed Pharaoh in that specific \_\_\_\_\_ at that specific \_\_\_\_\_ in history so God's \_\_\_\_\_ would be displayed.
- ✓ *Whom He wills He hardens:* A reference to the hardening of the heart; a spiritual state of \_\_\_\_\_ to God, characterized by callousness and insensitivity to His \_\_\_\_\_.

### Discussion Questions

1. What is the significance of God's statement to Moses, "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy" and how does this statement impact what we do as a church?
2. Discuss the implications of the statement, "So then *it is* not of him who wills, nor of him who runs, but of God who shows mercy." How does this concept challenge common human assumptions about earning favor or salvation?
3. What is the "fallacy" of good intentions? Why is it important to preach and teach against it in the church?
4. How has our culture bought into the fallacy of good intentions and how do we see the fallacy promoted through its message?
5. How can Pharaoh be held accountable for a heart that was hardened by God? How can this example be used to challenge people who are in danger of hardened hearts today?
6. What warning does Paul give about the hardness of heart? What do we need to do as a church to heed the warning?
7. In what ways does Romans 9:14-18 address the tension between God's election of Israel and His offer of salvation to all nations? How does Paul's argument challenge potential interpretations of ethnic or national superiority?

8. What are the key points of application from Romans 9:14-18 that we can apply to our lives today?