

## **Puppets**

### **Romans 9:6-32**

God always looks like Jesus on the cross!

#### **I. Outstretched Hands**

*We preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.*

1 Corinthians 1:23-24

*For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.*

1 Corinthians 2:2

#### **II. Internal Hardening**

*So, what does all this mean? Are we saying that God is unfair? Of course not! He had every right to say to Moses:*

*“I will be merciful to whomever I choose and I will show compassion to whomever I wish.”*

*Again, this proves that God’s choice doesn’t depend on how badly someone wants it or tries to earn it, but it depends on God’s kindness and mercy. For just as God said to Pharaoh:*

*“I raised you up as ruler of Egypt for this reason, that I might make you an example of how I demonstrate my miracle power. For by the example of how I deal with you, my powerful name will be a message proclaimed throughout the earth!”*

Romans 9:14-17

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#### **III. Spoiled Clay**

*This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord: “Go down to the potter’s house, and there I will give you my message.” So I went down to the potter’s house, and I saw him working at the wheel. But the pot he was shaping from the clay was marred in his hands; so the potter formed it into another pot, shaping it as seemed best to him. Then the word of the Lord came to me.*

Jeremiah 18:1-5

*He said, “Can I not do with you, Israel, as this potter does?” declares the Lord. “Like clay in the hand of the potter, so are you in my hand, Israel. If at any time I announce that a nation or kingdom is to be uprooted, torn down and destroyed, and if that nation I warned repents of its evil, then I will relent and not inflict on it the disaster I had planned.”*

Jeremiah 18:6-8

*Well then, one might ask, “If God is in complete control, how could He blame us? For who can resist whatever He wants done?”*

*But who do you think you are to second-guess God? How could a human being molded out of clay say to the one who molded him, “Why in the world did you make me this way?” Or are you denying the right of the potter to make out of clay whatever He wants? Doesn’t the potter have the right to make from the same lump of clay an elegant vase or an ordinary pot?*

Romans 9:19-21