

GENESIS

begin. belong. believe.

Hardened Hearts

Romans 9:17-29

v.17 – If God allows and/or ordains evil in the world in order that His redemptive purposes might be accomplished, how can we articulate this truth to those who are in the midst of great suffering as a result of the evil around them? Consider the Israelites who suffered for 400 years – what counsel would you have passed along to them?

v. 17 – In what ways can our situations, especially trials, be ways for showing God’s power and glory? What is an example from your story where God showed Himself strong and where His name was made known.

v. 18 – When God hardens a heart, how might this be an example of Divine Justice? Have you ever experienced a ‘hardening of your heart?’ How does one go about softening their heart towards God?

v.19-24 – The argument is often ‘Why does God hold me accountable for sinning, after all, its not my fault, I was born this way?’ ‘If God did not want me sinning, then why did He make me this way?’ Are these legitimate responses or questions to ask of God? If not, then how are we to understand being born with a sinful nature and God holding us accountable for our sin?

v.19-24 – God is absolutely Sovereign, which means He knew humanity would rebel against Him. God is also all Powerful, which means He could have stopped or prevented the fall from ever happening. He knew what the consequences of the Fall would be and chose not to stop it – what does this say about God? How should this reality shape how we walk in relationship with God?

The Doctrine of Election (predestination) is not easy to understand, but how can the Doctrine of Election be understood as a demonstration of God’s greatness and power? What might it teach us about ourselves and our own lives?