

THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD

GOD'S MERCY

ROMANS 9:14-18

How did you see God working in your life this week? (Romans 1:11, 12)

BACKGROUND: One definition for mercy is compassion or forgiveness shown toward someone whom it is within one's power to punish or harm. Jesus came to earth to demonstrate mercy.

CANNOT BE EARNED. God's mercy is a gift. Therefore, God's children, like their Father, can show godly mercy. (Romans 9:14-16, fn 9:16, Ephesians 2:4-9, fn 2:8, 9, Romans 12:5-8, fn 12:6-8, Luke 10:25-37, fn 10:27-37, Ephesians 5:18, fn 5:18, 19) *How could being controlled by the Spirit help you to be merciful in your family relationships?*

IS DETERMINED BY GOD. A hardened heart is a fixed attitude of rejection of who God is. God was glorified in His giving of sovereign mercy to the Israelite slaves and just as glorified in His power that did not extend mercy to Pharaoh and his kingdom. (Romans 9:17, fn 9:17, Exodus 9:12-16, fn 9:12, John 12:37-41, fn 12:39-41, Romans 11:5-10, fn 11:8-10, Romans 1:21-28) *How is God's power shown in hardened hearts?*

IS RECEIVED OR REJECTED. God's children are forgiving and compassionate, but those that turn their backs on God and salvation by Jesus are stubborn and obstinate. God's plan for your life and His Spirit in you enable you to live a life of mercy like Christ. (Romans 9:18, Hebrews 3:7-15, fn 3:7-15, James 2:12, 13, fn 2:13, Revelation 14:19, fn 14:19, Matthew 5:7, Ephesians 4:33-32, fn 4:32, Luke 6:36) *What do you need to change in order to be more merciful? How will you make that change?*

Check up—Are you praying with your spouse and your family? Group—Pray for personal requests and bond together by fellowshiping together.