Hardening Of The Heart

**Reading: Romans 9:14-24**

Remember Pharaoh? He was the creature that stubbornly stands up to the creator in defiance. Egypt became impoverished and decimated because of the stubbornness of its leader. The account says 10 times that Pharaoh hardened his heart. It also says “***God hardened pharaoh’s heart*** “ ten times.

John Calvin’s writings were heavily influenced by Romans 9 and by the story of Pharaoh. Pharaoh, Judas, Pontius Pilate had no choice in the matter. If that’s true, then you had no choice in the matter the last time you sinned.

***(James 1:13-17)***  ***Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempts he any man: {14} But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, [individual initiative]and enticed. {15} Then when lust has conceived, it brings forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, brings forth death. {16} Do not err, my beloved brethren. {17} Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.***

God has a sovereign right: ***(Daniel 4:24-26)*** ***This is the interpretation, O king, and this is the decree of the most High, which is come upon my lord the king: {25} That they shall drive you from men, and your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field, and they shall make you to eat grass as oxen, and they shall wet you with the dew of heaven, and seven times shall pass over you, till thou know that the most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomsoever he will. {26} And whereas they commanded to leave the stump of the tree roots; your kingdom shall be sure unto you, after that thou shalt have known that the heavens do rule.***

Jesus gives the same message to Pilate ***(John 19:10)*** ***You could have no power at all against me, except it were given you from above: therefore he that delivered me unto you has the greater sin.***

***(Matthew 5:16)*** ***Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.***

Judas in ***(John 13:21-30)*** ***When Jesus had thus said, he was troubled in spirit, and testified, and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, that one of you shall betray me. {22} Then the disciples looked one on another, doubting of whom he spoke. ... {25} He then lying on Jesus' breast said unto him, Lord, who is it? {26} Jesus answered, He it is, to whom I shall give a sop, when I have dipped it. And when he had dipped the sop, he gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon. {27} And after the sop Satan entered into him. Then said Jesus unto him, That thou do, do quickly. {28} Now no man at the table knew for what intent he spoke this unto him. {29} For some of them thought, because Judas had the bag, that Jesus had said unto him, Buy those things that we have need of against the feast; or, that he should give something to the poor. {30} He then having received the sop went immediately out:***

***(Exodus 7:3-5)*** ***And I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and multiply my signs and my wonders in the land of Egypt. {4} But Pharaoh shall not hearken unto you, that I may lay my hand upon Egypt, and bring forth mine armies, and my people the children of Israel, out of the land of Egypt by great judgments. {5} And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I stretch forth mine hand upon Egypt, and bring out the children of Israel from among them***.

**we have no right to question god’s SOVEREIGNTY** ***(Romans 9:17)***

***(Romans 9:1-5)*** God placed Israel an exalted position -- GOD HAD THE RIGHT to make them so blessed.

**god planned ahead: that’s predestination** ***(Romans 9:14-16)***

 ***[Matthew 7:21] Not every one that says to me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that does the will of my Father which is in heaven.*** It should read ***whomever the Father picks at random***.

Mark 16:16 should read, ‘He that believes and is baptized “Might” be saved; he that believes not “Could” be condemned.

Peter said, ***(Acts 10:34) Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons:***

All we need to do is to be ***conformed to the image of His Son. (Romans 8:29-30)***

**putting [vs 14-30] back into context**

The main issue, when put back in context, is this: GOD HAD THE RIGHT to choose among men who can further His purposes based upon choices they already made.

The point of the lesson is found in ***(Romans 9:17-18)***

**main point of romans 9 is not predestination**

“Paul’s sorrow for the Jews“ because they deliberately chose to disobey God, kill Jesus, and persecute the church. Now they find themselves in the midst of Roman conquest.

The Christian brethren may be questioning, **“Why do we have to feel the brunt for being righteous?** **Why doesn’t God punish the wicked men around us? *(Romans 9:20-24)***