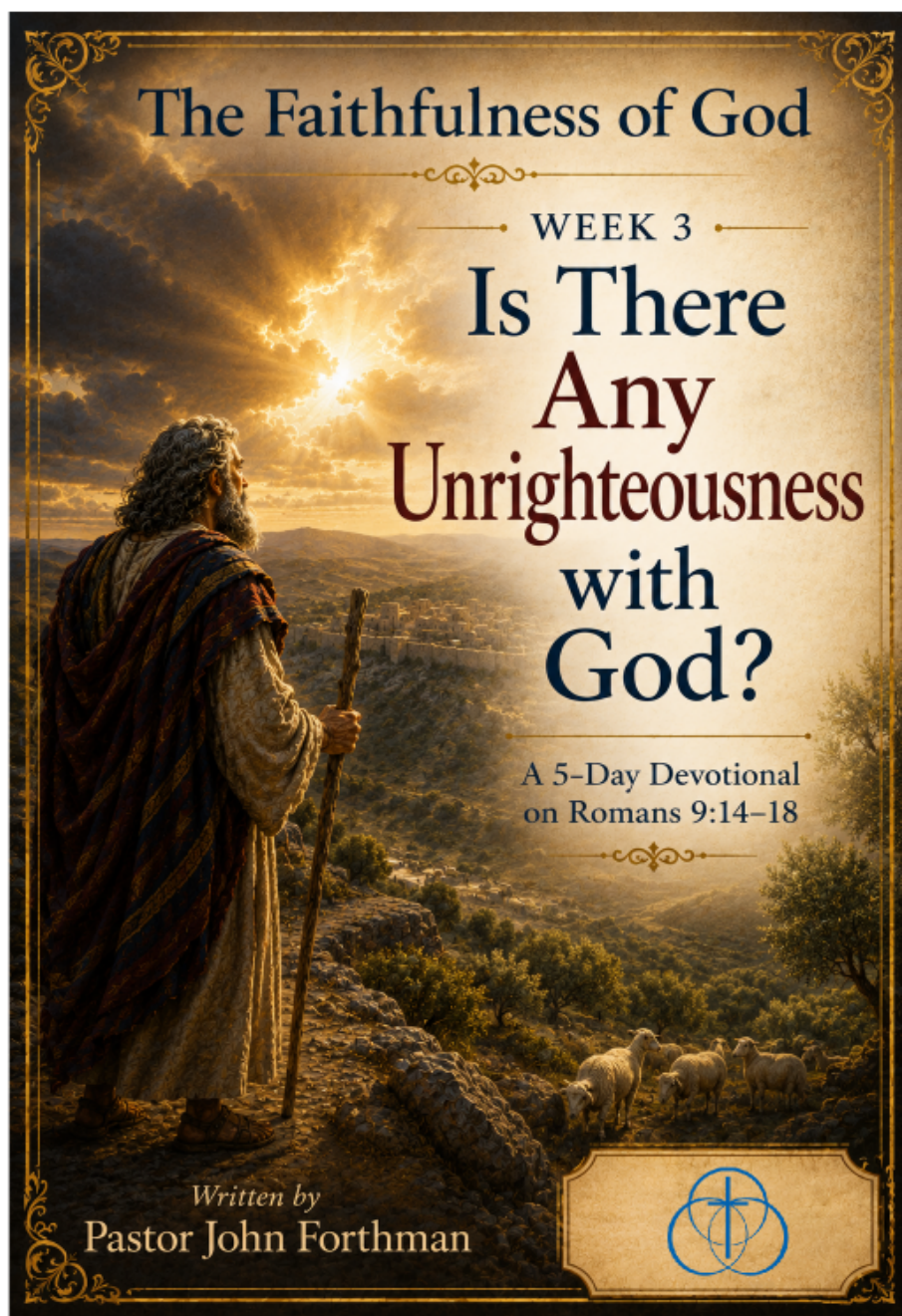




A 5-Day Devotional on Romans 9:14-18 • Pastor John Forthman

Day 1 - Mercy Is Part Of God's Character

Scripture: Exodus 34:6 - *"Then Yahweh passed by in front of him and called out, 'Yahweh, Yahweh God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth.'"*

Reflection

When Moses asked to see God's glory, God revealed something surprising. He didn't begin by displaying His power. He revealed His character.

The first words God used to describe Himself were "compassionate and gracious." That should encourage every believer. Sometimes we imagine God reluctantly showing mercy, as though He has to be convinced to love us.

Scripture paints a very different picture. Mercy flows naturally from God's holy character. He delights in steadfast love. He is patient with sinners. He is rich in compassion.

The same God who revealed Himself to Moses has not changed. His mercy toward you today is rooted in His unchanging character.

Questions for Reflection

- How have I pictured God's character?
- Which of God's attributes brings me the greatest comfort?
- How does knowing God is compassionate strengthen my faith?

Prayer: Father, thank You for revealing Yourself as compassionate and gracious. Help me trust Your heart even when I cannot understand Your ways. Amen.

Day 2 - Justice, Mercy, And Grace

Scripture: Romans 9:15 - *"For He says to Moses, 'I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.'"*

Reflection

Justice. Mercy. Grace. These three words are related, but they are not the same.

Justice means receiving what we deserve. Mercy means not receiving the punishment we deserve. Grace means receiving blessings we never deserved.

At the cross, all three came together perfectly. God's justice was satisfied because sin was judged. God's mercy was displayed because we were spared. God's grace was poured out because we received forgiveness and eternal life.

Understanding the difference helps us appreciate the Gospel even more. We do not stand before God demanding mercy. We kneel before Him thanking Him for it.

Questions for Reflection

- Which of these three words do I most often think about?
- How does the cross display all three?
- How can gratitude replace entitlement in my heart?

Prayer: Lord, thank You for Your justice, Your mercy, and Your amazing grace. Help me never take Your kindness for granted. Amen.

Day 3 - God's Mercy Changes Our Perspective

Scripture: *Luke 18:13b - "God, be merciful to me, the sinner!"*

Reflection

The tax collector in Jesus' parable did not come demanding fairness. He came pleading for mercy.

That is the posture of every believer. When we realize how much Christ has forgiven us, our attitude changes.

We stop asking, "What do I deserve?" Instead we begin asking, "Why has God been so good to me?"

Mercy produces humility. Humility produces worship. And worship produces joy.

Questions for Reflection

- Am I approaching God with humility?
- Have I forgotten how much Christ has forgiven me?
- How does remembering God's mercy change the way I pray?

Prayer: Father, thank You for showing mercy to me through Jesus Christ. Keep my heart humble and grateful each day. Amen.

Day 4 - The Cross Is Where Mercy Meets Justice

Scripture: Isaiah 53:5 - *"But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the chastening for our peace fell upon Him, and by His wounds we are healed."*

Reflection

The cross is the greatest demonstration of God's character. Jesus received the judgment we deserved. We received the mercy He purchased.

Every time you wonder whether God is just... look to the cross. Every time you wonder whether God loves you... look to the cross. Every time you wonder whether God keeps His promises... look to the empty tomb.

The cross answers questions that our circumstances cannot.

Questions for Reflection

- How does the cross strengthen my confidence in God?
- Which truth about Christ's sacrifice means the most to me today?
- How can I keep the cross at the center of my daily life?

Prayer: Lord Jesus, thank You for willingly taking my place. Help me never lose my wonder at the mercy You have shown me. Amen.

Day 5 - People Who Receive Mercy Show Mercy

Scripture: Matthew 5:7 - *"Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy."*

Reflection

God never intended His mercy to stop with us. It is meant to flow through us.

The more deeply we understand God's mercy, the more willing we become to forgive others.

Merciful people are patient. Merciful people are gracious. Merciful people refuse to hold grudges.

After all, how can we withhold from others what God has so freely given to us?

This week has reminded us that God's mercy is rooted in His perfect character. Now let that same mercy shape your own.

Questions for Reflection

- Is there someone I need to forgive?
- How has God's mercy changed the way I treat others?
- Where can I extend compassion this week?

Prayer: Merciful Father, thank You for Your unfailing compassion. Help me extend to others the same mercy You have so generously shown me. In Jesus' name, Amen.