

16. True or False: Hardening does not make/force a person to sin; rather God removes His restraining grace and turns a person over to their own wicked desires. Explain.

17. How does the act of God's hardening some explain why the world is the way it is?

18. How does God's hardening of some serve to enhance your own gratefulness and thankfulness?

19. How can we pray for each other this week?

#### Quotes to Ponder

*A person can try so desperately hard to please God that they come to resist the idea of grace.*

*Very sincere religious people (whether Jews or Hindus or Muslims and so on), for example, misguidedly reject the gospel because it seems to weaken the need for moral effort. Right standing with God is seriously, earnestly sought—but at the same time, his loving offer of that standing is being rejected. Inside the church this dynamic is working as well. It can be seen in congregations motivated almost completely by fear, guilt, and a need for approval.*

Timothy Keller

*One of the great mysteries of Scripture is the coexistence of God's sovereign preordination and man's personal accountability. God's judicial hardening of a man's heart is never separate from that man's hardening of his own heart.*

John MacArthur



Message #74: Israel's Hardening

January 17, 2016

## Sermon Notes

### 1. God Hardens

### 2. The Election

1. What in the text or sermon impacted you most? What encouraged you? Convicted you? Confused you?
2. What picture do you form of God from *Romans 11:7-10*? Is this the whole picture of who God is? Explain.
3. What did the non-elect part of Israel earnestly seek but fail to obtain and why did they fail (*Romans 9:30-32; 11:7-10*)?
4. Why is a works-oriented approach to salvation so offensive to God? What does this say about most religions?
5. Who obtained righteousness (*Romans 11:5, 7*)?
6. What was the basis for God's choosing (*Romans 11:5-6*)?
7. What happened to most of Israel (*Romans 11:7*)?
8. Who did the hardening (*Romans 11:7-8*)?
9. How do you reconcile God's active hardening of the hearts of people with His desire that all be saved (*2 Peter 3:9*)?
10. If God gives people *eyes to see not and ears to hear not*, how can He hold them accountable for not seeing or hearing (*Romans 11:8*)?
11. In *Romans 11:8-10* what three parts of the Old Testament Scriptures does he quote from? Why?
12. How can good gifts actually become a snare and a trap leading to a back bent and burdened under bondage (*Romans 11:9-10*)?
13. What do the following verses teach about God hardening people?  
*Proverbs 16:4* — *Romans 9:18* —  
*Isaiah 6:9-10* — *Romans 11:25* —  
*Mark 6:52* — *2 Corinthians 3:14* —
14. True or False: Hardening is a spiritual insensitivity that prevents people from responding to the message of salvation. Explain.
15. True or False: Hardening is not caused by a person's own action; God hardens whomever he will. Explain.