

“GOD IS NO RESPECTER....”

At the house of Cornelius (a Gentile), Simon Peter (a Jew), said, “Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: but in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is acceptable to him” (Acts 10:34–35). By this statement, Peter specifically referred to the racial distinction between Gentiles and Jews. Only a day before, Peter believed that it was “unlawful” for a Jew to enter the house of a Gentile (v. 28). However, God had used a thrice-repeated vision to convince Peter that the Gospel and its salvation was for Gentile and Jew alike.

There has never been any “respect of persons” with God. He has never arbitrarily included or excluded recipients of His grace on the basis of race or other physical features. Although He gave Israel the law to keep them a people through whom He could bring the Savior into the world, He nonetheless recognized righteousness among the Gentiles during the Mosaic Age (e.g., Nineveh [Mat. 12:41]). Paul stated simply, “for there is no respect of persons with God” (Rom. 2:11), doing so in a context emphasizing God’s consistency in dealing with Jew and Gentile alike.

That God is no respecter of persons has many applications for those who have lived since the cross:

- **Jesus’ Death:** Calvinism’s “limited atonement” heresy teaches that Jesus died for “the elect only”—those predetermined for salvation—and for none else. The Bible teaches that He gave himself “a ransom for all” (1 Tim. 2:6; cf. Heb. 2:9; 1 John 2:2). Most men reject Him, but He still died for all. They could be saved if they chose to be: “God is no respecter....”
- **Jesus’ Invitation:** He invites all men to accept the blessings available only in His death. He invites all to come to Him for rest from the practice, guilt, and consequence of sin (Mat. 11:28–30). He invites “whosoever will” (Rev. 22:17 [KJV]; cf. John 3:16). “God is no respecter....”
- **Jesus’ Gospel:** He ordered the preaching of the Gospel to “the whole creation” (Mark. 16:15–16). The Gospel is His sole means of inviting all men to come to Him, and it alone is God’s power to save men (Rom. 1:16). All who obey the Gospel are one, whether Jew or Greek, bond or free, male or female (Gal. 3:28). “God is no respecter....”
- **Jesus’ Plan of Salvation:** All must believe in Him (John 8:24). All must confess their belief in Him as the Son of God (Rom. 10:10). All must repent of their sins (Acts 16:30). All must be baptized to be saved (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38). All must faithfully serve Him (1 Tim. 4:16). The Lord does not save some by a mythical “sinner’s prayer,” some by faith alone, some by Holy Spirit baptism, still others by some mystical “experience,” or by some other means. All men are subject to the same conditions of pardon and salvation. There is one Gospel for all men (Gal. 1:6–9). Paul taught the same thing “everywhere in every church” (1 Cor. 4:17). “God is no respecter....”
- **Death of Men:** Of mankind, Solomon wrote: “all are of the dust, and all turn to dust again” (Ecc. 3:20). Death is an “appointment” all of us must keep (Heb. 9:27). Whether rich or poor, good or evil, powerless or powerful, regardless of race, “God is no respecter....”
- **Judgment of Men:** All, good and evil, will be raised and judged (Mat. 25:31–46; John 5:28–29). Jesus will be the Judge (Acts 17: 31), and none will be able to avoid it (2 Cor. 5:10; Rev. 20:12). All who have lived since the cross will be judged by the same standard—the words of Jesus (John 12:48), and the sentences will all be flawless (2 Tim. 4:8). “God is no respecter....”

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