

A SERIES OF DEVOTIONS BASED ON PAUL'S LETTER TO THE CHURCH IN ROME

GOD HAS NO FAVORITES

Romans 2:6-11 "God 'will repay each person according to what they have done.' . . . for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger. There will be trouble and distress for every human being who does evil: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile . . . For God does not show favoritism."

When you were in school, especially in the elementary grades, you may remember there was a fellow student who you believed was the teacher's pet. That person could do no wrong. That individual received special treatment. There was no question in your mind that your teacher was not fair in having favorite students.

There are individuals who believe that God is not fair. They believe that He gives special blessings to His "pets." At the same time, they believe that God withholds blessings from others including themselves.

The truth is, teachers may have pets, parents may favor one child over another, you may like some people more than you do others. This is simply human nature. There are simply some individuals who are easier to love than others, aren't there?

Paul tells us in today's devotional verse that this is not true with God. He has no favorites. If a Jew sins, God will punish that person's sins. If a Gentile sins, they too will receive God's punishment. God is abundantly clear in His word that He hates sin and will not tolerate it. He doesn't "wink" at the sins of some and bring down the full force of His wrath on others. He equally deals with the sins of sinners.

Ask Jesus! Yes, ask Jesus about God's punishment and wrath over sin. Jesus received God's wrath full force to the extent of ultimately suffering the agony of a Roman crucifixion on Calvary's hill. God did not show favoritism even to His one and only Son.

There is only one way God declares you sinless. It is by His undeserved love for you through His gift of faith to you in His Son that acquires God's declaration that He no longer counts your sins against you. The Gospel proclaims whoever believes in Jesus shall not receive God's wrath. They will receive His pardon and His gift of eternal life in Heaven. (John 3:16-17)

Prayer: Thank You Father for Your gift of Jesus and through Him Your pardon of all my sins. Amen

Drawn to the cross, which Thou hast blessed
With healing gifts for souls distressed,
To find in Thee my life, my rest,
Christ crucified, I come.

Thou knowest all my griefs and fears,
Thy grace abused, my misspent years;
Yet now to Thee with contrite tears,
Christ crucified, I come.

Wash me and take away each stain;
Let nothing of my sin remain.
For cleansing, though it be through pain,
Christ crucified, I come.

And then for work to do for Thee,
Which shall so sweet a service be
That angels well might envy me,
Christ crucified, I come.
(LSB 560)