

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

GOD IS GOD OF ALL

Romans 3:29 “. . . is God the God of Jews only? Is He not the God of Gentiles too?”

One of the sins of the Old Adam is ethnic superiority. This sin is known by a number of names such as nationalism, cultural supremacy, genetic superiority, etc. Hitler believed the Teutonic race was superior. Caucasians are accused of feeling themselves racially superior. Wars have been fought because of this sin.

The Jewish people, at the time Jesus was on earth and when the early Christian church was forming, believed they were superior, especially to Gentiles. St. Paul was harshly criticized by some Jewish Christians because he refused to insist that Gentile converts to Christianity had to be circumcised.

St. Paul poses a question in today's devotional verse. “. . . is God the God of Jews only? Is He not the God of Gentiles too?” God does not have favorites. He loves all equally. He desires all to believe in His Son Jesus Christ and be saved. He causes the sun to shine on all as He does the rain to fall. He hears the prayers of all who comes to Him in the name of Jesus no matter their ethnicity.

Remember the devotions from Acts? Chapter 10:34-36 records these words of St. Peter, “I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts from every nation the one who fears Him and does what is right. You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, announcing the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all.” James wrote this regarding showing favoritism, “My brothers and sisters, believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ must not show favoritism. . . (James 2:1) In regard to partiality and favoritism, St. Paul wrote in Galatians 3:28, “There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”

God sent Jesus into the world to pay for the sins of all people. The Gospel says, “whoever believes shall not perish but have everlasting life.” (John 3:16) God's heart of love overflows to all. Jesus therefore says to you, “You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven.” (Matthew 5:43-45)

Prayer: Open up my heart Lord to love all people showing no partiality but ready always to tell anyone who will listen of Your love for them in Christ Jesus. In His name. Amen.

We are called to stand together With the saints of ages past,
With the patriarchs and prophets In the faith they once held fast;
Promises and hopes they treasured Now we find fulfilled at last!

Those whom Jesus called apostles Journeyed with Him side by side,
Heard His teaching, felt His power, Saw the way He lived and died;
Then the news of resurrection Thy delivered far and wide.

Through the intervening ages Round the world the Gospel spread;
Faithful heralds took the message, Guided where the Spirit led;
So the body grew in stature, Serving Christ, the living head.

Now in many tongues and cultures Songs of celebration ring;
Millions who confess our Savior Honor Him as Lord and King
And, for courage, grace and guidance Ev'ry day their prayers they bring.

To each coming generation Tell the truth, persuade, explain,
Till the time when time is ended, Till the Savior comes again—
Till the saints are all united Christ's eternal reign!

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