

## “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 especially referred to the racial distinction between Gentiles and Jews. Peter’s observation caused him to enter the home of this Gentile, which the Jews considered “unlawful” (v. 28).

That God is no respecter of persons has many applications:

- **Jesus’ Death:** Calvinism’s “limited atonement” heresy teaches that Jesus died for “the elect only.” 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.
- **Jesus’ Invitation:** He invites **all** men to accept the blessings available only in His death. He invites **all** to come to Him for rest (Mat. 11:28–30). He invites “**whosoever** will” (Rev. 22:17; cf. John 3:16).
- **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. The Gospel 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 3:16). **All** must **confess** their belief in Him as the Son of God (John 8:24; 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 the

“sinner’s prayer,” others by faith alone, still others by some mystical “experience,” or by some other means. **All** men are subject to the **same conditions** of pardon and salvation. Paul taught the same thing “everywhere in every church” (1 Cor. 4:17).

“God is no respecter of persons” in the plan of salvation.

- **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 of persons” in death.
- **Judgment of Men:** All, good and evil, will be raised and judged (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 will be judged by the same standard (John 12:48), and the sentences will all be flawless (2 Tim. 4:8). Those sentences will determine our eternal abode (Mat. 25:31–46).

—Dub McClish

Denton, TX