

The Gospel Herald

“As the truth is in Jesus” (Ephesians 4:21)

For The LORD’S PILGRIMS, STRANGERS & SOJOURNERS

by
Donald E. Martin, Sr.

Without Free Offer and General Invitation it is Unfair, cry the religious!

A view of God’s divine favour, “and the child Samuel grew on and was in favour with the Lord” (I Sam. 2:16)

Because the God of the Holy scriptures has expressed divine favor which has been and is being used in the gathering of his Church Bride throughout the generations of time, DOES NOT mean that the Almighty has to be “fair” in the finite mind of men.

The human intellect naturally insinuates that God must be “fair” in giving all of mankind “equal opportunity” to believe upon the Lord Jesus Christ and become a citizen of the kingdom of God. This is the message that is being echoed throughout the majority of meeting houses that call themselves Christian on any given Sunday. “God has made salvation available, God has given every person opportunity, and it is TOTALLY UP TO YOU to choose or reject the gospel message of Christ’s provision.”

To proclaim a discriminate God that has elected, chosen, appointed, ordained, called, and predestined a people which shall be CAUSED to believe upon the sacrificial work of our Lord Jesus Christ, causes man’s natural reasoning to cry out, “UNFAIR, UNFAIR, “God wants ALL men to be saved eternally! Did God want all that perished in the flood to be saved? How about those that perished in Sodom & Gomorrah? Would you think Judas, the betrayer was desired to be saved eternally? “ as many as were ORDAINED to eternal life believed” (Acts 13:48), what about those which WERE NOT ORDAINED to eternal life? You see the inconsistency of trying to make God obligated to offer salvation to ALL mankind?

The most common used scripture that the modern evangelical Baptist assembly use to support their “God wants ALL men saved” is “God is not willing that any perish, but that all should come to repentance” (II Peter 3: 9). When you examine this verse in its context, you discover that Peter was writing” to them who have obtained like precious faith” (II Peter 1:1) and as you look at the total verse it states “The Lord is not slack

concerning his promise, as some men count slackness: but is long suffering to “**us-ward.**” The key is the word “**us-ward;**” this IS NOT written regarding ALL of mankind, but the beloved heirs of divine grace, chosen in Christ Jesus. This verse is greatly misused in assuming that God desires ALL mankind to be saved.

God being the Almighty sovereign deity, which is unlimited in His divine purposes, shall accomplish His decreed determined pleasure and none stay his hand. Looking to the Holy Writ as a record of His discriminate love towards a chosen lot of mankind, we find His FAVOR upon Adam, “God saw everything that he had made, and, behold, it was very good” (Gen. 1:31). Yet Adam fell and lost his favor with God. Then came the depraved offspring of Adam, come Cain and Abel, God had respect for Abel (Gen.4:4) And not for Cain. The generations of Adam continued until God was dissatisfied with ALL of mankind except for Noah, his wife, three Sons, and their wives; for “Noah found GRACE in the eyes of the Lord” (Gen. 6:8). From ALL of mankind, every human creature was determined to perish in the deluge of the flood, except for the eight souls favored of God’s safe in the divine protection of the Ark; was this “FAIR?”

Was it fair for the Almighty to choose from all the people upon the earth those that were of the seed of Abraham? For they were even the smallest among the nations of people. Yet, according to promise God chose Israel as his people; to bless them, deliver them, use them as types and shadows of the Church of the firstborn in time which His Son shall establish.

Throughout the entirety of the Old Testament there are examples of God’s discriminate favor revealed upon his prophets to herald the message of those things to come, the judgments and calamities due to His peoples’ rebellion and hardness of heart.

David penned, “ Blessed is the man that thou chooseth and causeth to approach unto thee”(Psa. 65:4). Our Lord Jesus said, “No man cometh unto me EXCEPT the Father which sent me draw them” (Jn. 6:44).

No dear ones, God has NOT opened the flood gates of opportunity to ALL of mankind, nor has he made salvation the choice of the creature. God in his sovereign mercy seeks and saves them which are his elect children, chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world. They that are the elect adopted heirs of divine grace SHALL COME because they are made able to come: For they alone HEAR the voice of the GOOD SHEPHERD and shall follow HIM. The God of the Bible is a DISCRIMINATE GOD, not obligated to redeem anymore than those of which His darling Son died for on the cross of Calvary, Christ became their “sin bearer, redeemer, intercessor, and mediator”, not for the world of mankind as a whole, but the elect according to His predestined purpose (Eph. 1:4-5). For by GRACE alone, “unmerited favour” has salvation been provided to undeserving sinners, such as I.

October 3, 2006