"NO FAVORITISM IN GOD'S EYES"

ACTS 10:9-48
7-26-2026

*** God does not show favoritism (nor should we!) (v. 34)**
Why not? 4 Evidences:

I. GOD'S APPROVAL IS TOWARD ALL (V. 9-16)
(All men, whether Jew or Gentile, are kosher with God)

II. GOD'S MESSAGE IS FOR ALL (V. 17-33)
(All men have the right to hear the Word of God)

A. The Messenger's Availability (V. 17-23)

B. The Messenger's Humility (V. 24-29)

C. The Messenger's Responsibility (V. 30-33)

III. GOD'S GRACE IS FOR ALL (V. 34-43)
(All men can be forgiven by the Son of God)

A. God Graciously Invites All (V. 34-35)

B. God Graciously Gave His Son For All (V. 36-42)

C. God Graciously Forgives All (V. 43)

IV. GOD'S SPIRIT IS FOR ALL (V. 44-48)
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INTRODUCTION:

ILLUS: How everyone thinks their nationality is superior. EX: Greeks during the time of Alexander the Great. Romans during the time of the Caesars. Germans during the time of Hitler. Ku Klux Klan today.

Today, Cubans might view themselves as superior to the Dominicans, and the Dominicans view themselves above the Cubans.

However, in God's eyes all lines of distinction, all supposed marks of superiority are erased!

In the O.T., God did choose a nation to work with and through - He chose to begin a nation with Abraham; this nation came to be known as Israel.

But because He chose Israel didn't mean they were superior to other nations.

Deut. 7:7-8a - "...But because the Lord loved you."

Ezekiel described Israel when God chose her as an infant that was dirty, rejected by parents, pitiful, thrown out to die, until she was rescued by God (Ez. 16:16).

Yet for any Jew (including Peter) the idea of "Jewish superiority before God" was a hard one to remove from his thinking. The fact that Israel did have a "special place" in God's dealings with man, and because God had given His law specifically to them, made it hard for anyone to think that God had changed a program that had lasted for 2100 years.

Christianity in Acts 1-7 had stayed in Jerusalem and seemed to be a "Jewish" religion until God began to cause it to spread (Acts 8ff).

God didn't want a Jewish church.

In Acts 10, God teaches us that Gentiles are accepted on an equal level with the Jews in this Dispensation.

READ Verse 34.

Jew and Gentile are equal in the body of Christ.

Rom. 2:11 - "For there is no respect of persons with God."

*** God does not show favoritism (nor should we!)**
(v. 34)

Why not? 4 Evidences:

I. GOD'S APPROVAL IS TOWARD ALL (V. 9-16)

(All men, whether Jew or Gentile, are kosher with God)

ILLUS: of talking to a Hasidic Jew in Israel (June 2, 1988), whom I characterized as being: 1) twisted in Oral Tradition (the Mishna); 2) believed in works righteousness; 3) proud nationalism (being one of the "elect nation"--Israel--and a pious one at that). **Much like a Pharisee in Christ's day.

Peter had a nationalistic pride that God would have to erode. God would have to prepare Peter to let him know that He accepted all - Jew and Gentile on an equal basis.

Significant note: The place where Peter was staying was in the house of "Simon a tanner." (9:43) Tanners were considered "unclean" by the Jewish rabbis (SEE Lev. 11:35-40)

God was moving Peter step by step out of his legalism and prejudice, etc.

Now while in a house where animals were skinned and then tanned, Peter has a vision of animals.

V. 10

"Trance" – a word from which we get our word "ecstacy." Lit. - to stand outside.

This trance was a state in which Peter stood outside himself to see something from a new perspective (i.e. from God).

God used Peter's hunger (v. 10) to introduce an important object lesson.

V. 11

"Sheet" = linen cloth

V. 12

"Creeping things" = reptiles

Leviticus 11 prohibited Israel from eating certain unclean animals.

Those that didn't chew the cud - unclean
Those that didn't have a split hoof - unclean

They couldn't eat the camel, rabbit, swine, sea life without fins and scales, certain birds, rodents, and reptiles.

ILLUS: "Hebrew National Hot Dogs" commercial.
--"Uncle Sam says we can add fillers...But we don't."
--"Uncle Sam says we can add preservatives...But we don't"
--"Uncle Sam says we can add artificial color...But we don't."

They conclude by saying that although the U.S. standards allow various fillers, etc., we don't add them because we have to answer to an "even higher Authority." (i.e. God)

V. 13

"Kill" = a word which refers primarily to "sacrifice" (EX: I Cor. 5:7; Acts 14:13, 18).

This is probably a hint at the peace offerings which were sacrificed to God, but eaten by the people.

V. 15

"Cleansed" = purified (by the death of Christ)

"Call not" = present negative imperative. Don't [continue] go on calling the Gentiles profane (common).

We are not under the O.T. ceremonial and civil law. We can eat Pork, fish without scales, etc.

I Tim. 4:4 - "For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving"

If you can thank God for it, eat it! (Yet discretion still is necessary in what you eat).

In the O.T., a Gentile had to surrender his Gentile-ness and become a Jewish proselyte to be acceptable to God; but now God (through Christ's death) changed all that.

The priesthood was abolished. The temple was now the believer's body (I Cor. 6:19)

All who come to God are acceptable
<u>just as they are</u>!!

ILLUS: Bum who dressed himself up and then was of no use to the artist, who wanted to paint a picture of a bum.

II. GOD'S MESSAGE IS FOR ALL (V. 17-33)

(All men have the right to hear the Word of God)

A. THE MESSENGER'S AVAILABILITY (V. 17-23)

Peter, who had been given the keys of the Kingdom (Mt. 16:17), after opening the door of the Gospel to the Jews (Acts 2); Samaritans (Acts 8), will now open it to the Gentiles in Acts 10).

V. 17

"Doubted in himself" = to be perplexed. Lit. to be completely at a loss as to which way to go.

V. 19

While Peter was thinking through what he had seen, the answer was waiting right outside his door.

V. 20

Cp. Verse 29 - "Without gainsaying" = Peter did what he was told without talking back, or raising any objection.

V. 22

"Warned" = a serious instruction; a divine warning.

"Yours is not to reason why; yours is but to do or die."
Don't question God, just do what He says.

B. THE MESSENGER'S HUMILITY (V. 24-29)

V. 25

Unlike the popes of today, Peter (who is called by the R.C.C. "the first Pope") did not accept worship (bowing down and reverencing him).

Peter was humble. He knew he was only flesh and blood.

V. 28

"Unlawful" = a taboo

Peter was beginning to realize that he was not superior to Gentiles just because he was a Jew.

He forgot this lesson on one occasion and had to be rebuked by Paul (Gal. 2:11-14).

C. THE MESSENGER'S RESPONSIBILITY (V. 30-33)

God's plan is to use men (saved believers) to share his message. (NOTE: the angel, or the Holy Spirit) could have given the message to Cornelius)

III. GOD'S GRACE IS FOR ALL (V. 34-43)

(All men can be forgiven by the Son of God)

A. GOD GRACIOUSLY INVITES ALL (V. 34-35)

V. 34

"Respecter" = lit. to receive the face, or accept one person over another; to have favorites.

"No difference" -

Rom. 10:12 - "For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him."

Rom. 3:22 - "Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference"

V. 35

NOTE: It's not the righteousnesses of an unsaved man that God accepts (Is. 64:6; Tit. 2:5) but the man himself.

God will not turn away anyone who sincerely tries to come to Him.

Those who come to God must come in sincerity! (like Cornelius)

He invites all sinners (as He did in all of history), but sincerity means you "fear"
God, and you desire to do what is "right."

"The Lord looketh on the heart" (I Sam. 16:17)

B. GOD GRACIOUSLY GAVE HIS SON FOR ALL (V. 36-42)

V. 36

The "peace" (peace with God) is offered to all - SEE Eph. 2:11-22.

God has broken down the middle wall of partition between Jew and Gentile.

That wall in the Temple that separated the Court of the Gentiles from the Court of the Jews is broken down in Christ.

C. GOD GRACIOUSLY FORGIVES ALL (V. 43)

The one condition however, is faith only in Christ.

Who is included in the word "whosoever"?

According to I Cor. 6:9-11, God can save: fornicators, idolaters, adulterers, homosexuals, thieves, covetous, and drunkards.

God is not partial, biased, or prejudiced.
He is an equal-opportunity Savior!

IV. GOD'S SPIRIT IS FOR ALL (V. 44-48)

(All believers are baptized by the Spirit of God)

V. 44

They believed before Peter even gave an invitation!

As Peter was speaking, their hungry, thirsty souls were satisfied to find that by simple faith in jesus they could have "remission of sins" (v. 43)

Don't ever force anyone to accept the Gospel. If they are willing, they will believe. NOTE: Do, however, invite them to trust Christ (EX: Acts 16:31); but don't force them.

Though this verse does not say they believed, we know they did from Acts 11:17.

All believers have the Holy Spirit.

I Cor. 12:13 - "For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit."

Rom. 8:9 - "But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his."

Gal. 3:26-28 - "For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus."

Why tongues?

1) The purpose of tongues was to show the Jews that God was working in the lives of various nationalities (not limited to Israel) (I Cor. 14:21, 22).

2) The result of tongues proved to Peter that the Gentiles received the Holy Spirit just like he did at Pentecost. NOTE: However, this in Acts 10 is not a second Pentecost. Pentecost was a one time event. Proof:

1. No sound of wind; no sight of fire as in Acts 2:2-3
2. In Acts 2, the disciples had previously believed and were baptized, but were waiting for the Spirit; whereas here at the instant of belief they receive the Spirit, and afterward they are baptized in water.

NOTE: In Acts 8 God delayed the Spirit so that Peter could witness Him coming upon the half-breed Samaritans.

V. 45

"Astonished" - similar word as the word "trance" (v. 10).
They were beside themselves, amazed.

V. 48

"Water baptism" always follows belief and Spirit baptism.

CONCLUSION:

What is the point of chapter 10? God does not show favoritism.

1. God's approval is toward all
2. God's message is for all
3. God's grace is for all
4. God Spirit is for all

Jesus did not show favoritism. Even his enemies admitted: "We know you are a man of integrity and that you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. You aren't swayed by men, because you pay no attention to who they are" (Mt. 22:16, NIV)

APPLICATION -

1. Being <u>afraid</u> to witness to some people (EX: rich, famous, Jewish, etc.) is partiality, hence it is sin.

2. <u>Neglecting</u> to witness to some (EX: poor, certain races, etc.) is also sin.

The ground is level at the foot of the cross.

No one will say to God at the judgment: "You were unfair...You didn't provide salvation for me..."

Today, anyone and everyone can come to Christ.

Rev. 22:17 - "And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.