"God Favors the Righteous"

(Selected Scriptures from the Psalms)

1/9/05

Psalm 4:3 - But know that the Lord hath set apart him that is godly for himself: the Lord will hear when I call unto him.
Psalm 5:12 - For thou, Lord, wilt bless the righteous; with favour wilt thou compass him as with a shield.

While God loves all of His children equally,
*** God does show favoritism: to those who are Godly!**
(Preferential Treatment: to those who are righteous)

1. **God <u>Hears the PRAYER</u> of the Righteous** (Psalm 4:3b; 34:15)
   Psalm 34:15 - The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry.

2. **God <u>Accepts the PRAISE</u> of the Righteous** (Psalm 33:1; cp. 140:13)
   Psalm 33:1 - Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous: for praise is comely for the upright.

3. **God <u>Removes the AFFLICTIONS</u> of the Righteous** (Psalm 34:19)
   Psalm 34:19 - Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the Lord delivereth him out of them all.

4. **God <u>Fulfills the DESIRES</u> of the Righteous** (Psalm 37:3-5)
   Psalm 37:4 - Delight thyself also in the Lord; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.

5. **God <u>Uplifts the TESTIMONY</u> of the Righteous** (Psalm 37:6, 37:17; 112:6)
   Psalm 112:6 - Surely he shall not be moved for ever: the righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance.

6. **God <u>Supplies the PROVISION</u> for the Righteous** (Psalm 37:25)
   Psalm 37:25 - I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.

7. **God is <u>Pleased with the SACRIFICE</u> of the Righteous** (Psalm 51:19)
   Psalm 51:19 - Then shalt thou be pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness.

8. **God <u>Increases the JOY</u> of the Righteous** (Psalm 64:10; 97:11)
   Psalm 64:10 - The righteous shall be glad in the Lord, and shall trust in him; and all the upright in heart shall glory.

"God Favors the Righteous"

(Selected Scriptures from the Psalms)
1/30/05

Psalm 4:3 - But know that the Lord hath set apart him that is godly for himself: the Lord will hear when I call unto him.
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Intro. Illustration of the "Teacher's Pet"

Does God have favorites? Is there a type of Character that pleases Him more than others? Yes!

See Psalm 4

THE SOURCE OF OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS (God) (v. 1)

The righteousness I possess, I possess in Him.

Our righteousness is not good enough to merit God's Eternal Life

Isa 64:6 But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.

The righteousness He requires, it the righteousness His righteousness requires Him to require

Romans 10:3 For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.

Isa 45:24 Surely, shall one say, in the LORD have I righteousness and strength: even to him shall men come; and all that are incensed against him shall be ashamed.

Be clothed in His righteousness!
Parable of man without wedding garment (Mt. 22:10,11)

Our Righteousness is in the LORD alone!
2 Cor. 5:21 - For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

Jer 23:6 In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.
Jer 33:16 In those days shall Judah be saved, and Jerusalem shall dwell safely: and this is the name wherewith she shall be called, The LORD our righteousness.
Jer 51:10 The LORD hath brought forth our righteousness: come, and let us declare in Zion the work of the LORD our God.

When it comes to positional righteousness, our Righteousness is only in God

Positionally, all believers in Christ stand on equal ground; None is any better than any one else.

However there is a righteousness that differs among believers. For example, future rewards will be given out based on our earthly manifestations of this righteousness.

Psalm 4:3 - But know that the Lord hath set apart him that is godly for himself: the Lord will hear when I call unto him.

Psalm 5:12 - For thou, Lord, wilt bless the righteous; with favour wilt thou compass him as with a shield.

"For the righteous Lord loveth righteousness;
his countenance doth behold the upright." Ps. 11:7

Because our Heavenly Father is righteous, we must be:

1. **<u>Honest</u> in regards to money (Lev. 19:36; Prov. 11:1, 16:11; Col. 4:1)**
   (Never cheat on you income tax; bills; loans; tests etc.)
2. **<u>Fair</u> in dealing with people (Dt. 16:18; II Sam. 23:3)**
   (Don't take bribes or show unjust partiality)
3. **<u>Sincere</u> in our acts of righteousness (Mt. 6:1ff)**
   (NASV = "acts of righteousness")
4. **<u>Pure</u> in relation to sin (I Cor. 15:34)**
   ("Awake to righteousness and sin not...")
5. **<u>Truthful</u> in our speech (Eph. 4:24,25)**
   (Don't tell lies, "half lies", "white lies", etc.)
6. **<u>Obedient</u> to His Word (Eph. 6:1)**
   ("Children obey your parents in the Lord for this is <u>right</u>")

While God loves all of His children equally,
*** God does show favoritism: to those who are Godly!**
(Preferential Treatment: to those who are righteous)

1. God <u>Hears the PRAYER</u> of the Righteous (Psalm 4:3b; 34:15)

God will absolutely answer your prayers, if you meet these Conditions:

a. THE ONE WHO PRAYS IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOD'S WILL
I Jn 5:14 - And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:

b. THE ONE WHO PRAYS - BELIEVING!
Mark 11:24- Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.
James 1:6-7 - But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.
For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.
THE ONE WHO IS OBEDIENT TO GOD'S WORD
I John 3:22 - And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.

Psalm 34:15 - The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry.

Psalm 34:15 - The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry.

The one who pleases Him recieves answers to prayer:
Ps 66:18-20 -
If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me:
But verily God hath heard me; he hath attended to the voice of my prayer. Blessed be God, which hath not turned away my prayer, nor his mercy from me.

2. God Accepts the PRAISE of the Righteous (Psalm 33:1; cp. 140:13)

Psalm 33:1 - Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous: for praise is comely for the upright.

Psalm 140:13 - Surely the righteous shall give thanks unto thy name: the upright shall dwell in thy presence.

3. God Removes the AFFLICTIONS of the Righteous (Psalm 34:19)

Psalm 34:19 - Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the Lord delivereth him out of them all.

4. God <u>Fulfills the DESIRES</u> of the Righteous (Psalm 37:3-5)

Psalm 37:4 - Delight thyself also in the Lord; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.

5. God <u>Uplifts the TESTIMONY</u> of the Righteous (Psalm 37:6, 37:17; 112:6)

Psalm 112:6 - Surely he shall not be moved for ever: the righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance.

Psalm 75:6-7
For promotion cometh neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south. [7] But God is the judge: he putteth down one, and setteth up another.

6. God <u>Supplies the PROVISION</u> for the Righteous (Psalm 37:25)

Psalm 37:25 - I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.

Php 4:19 But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

7. God is <u>Pleased with the SACRIFICE</u> of the Righteous (Psalm 51:19)

Psalm 51:19 - Then shalt thou be pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness.

Before you offer anything to God, you must be <u>righteous</u>.

"The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the Lord"

Rm. 12:1-2 - God wants a sacrifice that is "holy and acceptable."

1Sa 15:22 *And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.*

Mt 5:23 -24 Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift.

8. God <u>Increases the JOY</u> of the Righteous (Psalm 64:10; 97:11)

Psalm 64:10 - The righteous shall be glad in the Lord, and shall trust in him; and all the upright in heart shall glory.

Psalm 97:11 - Light is sown for the righteous, and gladness for the upright in heart.

"For the righteous Lord loveth righteousness;

his countenance doth behold the upright." Ps. 11:7