



Is God Biased? (Part 2)

1 Peter 2:9: (NKJV) *"But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;"*



Last week we began to look into whether or not God is biased. The working definition we used was, "An inclination that prevents an unprejudiced consideration of a matter." Why is this question an important enough matter to continue with this week? Think about it - if God were to be biased, then by definition he would be making His judgments and decisions based on a prejudiced perspective. Would you trust a God whose basis of operation was not squarely built upon justice, wisdom and love? Stay with us as we continue our examination of what the Bible tells us about the character of God - this time focusing on the New Testament and the eternal reasons that God has for allowing our race to go through such difficulties.

Questions for consideration:

1. If God is truly righteous, why would He choose between people?
(See previous study last week)

An inclination that prevents an unprejudiced consideration of a matter.

2. Can we do the same as God?

3. What is the end result of God's choices among men?

Let's first recap last week's focus on the Old Testament:

Genesis 1:25-28: This text gave us important principles with which to begin:

- God created mankind in His image - we are therefore subservient to the creator as His created;
- Mankind was to be fruitful and multiply - a procreation process - one not of subservience, but one of eventual equality (generational respect notwithstanding). There is a difference in humankind procreating its own race versus God creating our race. There is a difference in our dealing with each other and our dealing with God.



So, what had we learned about God and His creation - with nations in the picture and with Israel, despite having been privileged acting out of accordance with God's will?

- Ⓢ He is the Creator;
- Ⓢ He set the rules;
- Ⓢ His rules are based in righteousness and justice;
- Ⓢ He allowed Satan to choose;
- Ⓢ He allowed man to choose;
- Ⓢ He is true to His word;
- Ⓢ He rewards those who diligently follow His precepts;
- Ⓢ His timetable is much longer than ours - he allows suffering to seemingly drag on;
- Ⓢ He allows the masses to choose;
- Ⓢ He gives fair warning to the masses regarding the consequences of their actions.

So far, had we seen any evidence of bias on God's part?

Reviewing the actions of God in the Old Testament, what can we learn?

- ✓ There are no surprises - God is as good as His word.
- ✓ God's actions are always born of wisdom for the purpose of eternity.
- ✓ Bias arises on the part of mankind frequently.
- ✓ When we act in a biased manner, we pollute goodness.

Isaiah 55:8-11: God as the Creator is different than we are and takes a long term view.

1. If God is truly righteous, why would He choose between people?
Adding thoughts from the New Testament...



The "favored people" status definitely continued in the New Testament: Matthew 10:5-6: (The mission later expanded to include the Gentiles.) There was a massive gulf between those in and those out of favor: Matthew 15:21-28

Observations:

- Jesus' mission was clearly to Israel;
- This Greek woman, of all the wrong belief systems, pursues Jesus;
- He tells her that she is "out of favor;"
- Her faith persists;
- Jesus grants healing because of that great faith in the RIGHT things.

Therefore, great faith in the right things brings God's favor! Sound familiar?



So, what have we learned about God and His creation - with nations in the picture and with Israel, despite having been privileged acting out of accordance with God's will and now with Jesus in the picture?

- He is the Creator;
- He set the rules;
- His rules are based in righteousness and justice;
- He allowed Satan to choose;
- He allowed man to choose;
- He is true to His word;
- He rewards those who diligently follow His precepts;
- His timetable is much longer than ours - he allows suffering to seemingly drag on;
- He allows the masses to choose;
- He gives fair warning to the masses regarding the consequences of their actions.
- **God, through Jesus, reveals the great favoring power of focused faith, no matter who has it.** So do we see any evidence of bias on God's part in the actions of Jesus?

The principle of focused faith bringing favor proves to be both a great invitation as well as a great responsibility: Matthew 23:37-39: God, through Jesus, verifies God's righteousness by saying "no" when faith and obedience cease.

Once the door of favor is closed due to unfaithfulness, it finds an opening of faith elsewhere: Acts 10:30-37

Observations:

- Cornelius was a Gentile;
- His focused faith was honored by God even when he was outside of a favored condition;
- At God's appropriate time, Cornelius' faith would bring great favor;
- Peter's own focused faith sees and embraces this great change of age;
- Peter proclaims God's impartiality.

2. Can we do the same as God?

Proverbs 21:2-3

Once the door to Gentile favor was opened, it opened a can of worms with it, for the Jews had for thousands of years been taught to be separate so as to maintain an unpolluted focus on God. Even though they continually messed this up, they were still programmed to be separate. Now all of that was supposed to change! This spelled trouble! The early church was faced with "tradition" versus "grace." Acts 15:6-20

Observations:

- This would be a test to reveal Christian bias!
- Gentile Christians and the Law was a BIG issue - so this was a BIG meeting;
- Peter (appropriately) lays the groundwork of God's equal favor to Gentile Christians;
- Barnabas and Paul continue with factual accounts of God's favor;
- James ties it all together with prophecy from Amos 9:11-12;

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James verifies God's impartiality - "Known to God from eternity are all His works."

So, what have we learned about God and His creation - with nations in the picture and with Israel, despite having been privileged acting out of accordance with God's will, with the backdrop of Jesus' teaching and example and now with a young Christian Church faced with issues?

God gives us His impartiality as the ideal comparison when we are dealing with OUR bias.

So do we see any evidence of bias on God's part, or Jesus' part or the efforts of the early Christians? (The early Christians were still working on it at this time!) However, are WE biased?

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God's impartiality regarding the true Christian Church:

Galatians 3:21-29: Great! We have this abounding favor for the faithful, solely based on the content of their character and the degree of their dedication! What about everyone else? Just because someone was born at the wrong time or in a place never reached by the Gospel, or into a culture that hated the Gospel, does this mean they never have an opportunity for favor? Wouldn't that be a biased plan?

3. What is the end result of God's choices among men?

God's "favor" is based on eternity. Jesus taught us to pray for God's Kingdom to come on earth - if that's the case, then why are Christians supposed to go to Heaven? Could it be that there are two parts to salvation and those "left out" in the Galatians 3:21-29 text are not really left out at all? The Christian's path is supposed to be a path of sacrifice, not a path of ease or unmatched wealth. We know this because we are to follow our example, Jesus.

Jesus defined the path of sacrifice: Isaiah 53:3-5 Luke 6:22-23 How does it work? Galatians 3:27-29: What promise is this referring to? Genesis 22:15-18: The Apostle Paul is saying that as Abraham's seed, we will bless all the families of the earth. How is that possible?

1 Timothy 4:10 1 John 2:2: If you ask the question, "is God biased," you have to address the issue of what happens to everybody else? We get a good sense of how Christians are judged, but how are the "everybody else" judged? These scriptures seem to indicate there is something good in store for "everybody else" through the true Christians.

Romans 8:16-21: This is a very inclusive promise. So it seems as though there are different classes of people - "them" - those on the outside currently not in a favored light and "us" - those on the inside, who are committed to God's will.



1 Peter 2:9-12: See how God's impartiality brings all of mankind into favor! Notice in the following scriptures how the principles of justice, wisdom and love are all present together. These principles are truly the foundation for impartiality: John 5:28-29 1 Corinthians 15:20-22: We keep talking about God being just, wise and loving. We saw that through Adam, humans were all condemned to death. Here is the justice - there was a life given for a life. We are all subject to death in Adam; therefore we are all subject to life in Christ. 1 Timothy 2:5-6: God's partiality is all in the context of eternity. What looks like bias is actually an impartial plan to bring everyone into an equal standing before God. Colossians 1:18-20: This is the peace that comes from the ransom Jesus offered through his sacrifice. That was the satisfaction of justice so that all mankind could eventually live; whereas now they are all condemned to die.

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1 Timothy 2:3-4: (KJV) "For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge <1922> of the truth."

Knowledge: Strongs #1922. epignwsiv epignosis ep-ig'-no-sis; recognition, i.e. (by implication) full discernment, acknowledgement



So, if all are to be saved, where and how does it happen? Remember the "dominion" over the earth that God gave to Adam originally? Here are some scriptures dealing with the "everybody else:" **Zephaniah 3:8-9:** At the time when God's indignation and anger is poured upon the earth, that's setting up for all the people on the earth to have a pure speech so they can call upon the name of the Lord. This is a very dramatic set of events, where God's anger at sin yields righteousness on the earth. This isn't a literal fire, this is the "fire of His passion."

Isaiah 65:21-25: That is a very startling picture of the result of God's judgments on the earth. This is the building up of society yet man still has dominion. People want to be able to live in a society peacefully. People still have the authority over the earth given to them by God in this prophecy. The Christians went to heaven; these prophecies are talking about the "everyone else." Where do the millions fit who never heard the name of Jesus Christ, or had the opportunity? If God is not biased, doesn't He have a plan for them? The resounding answer is, "yes!" Remember when Jesus said in his prayer, "...thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is done in heaven..." so when you look at these prophecies against the backdrop of Jesus' prayer, we can see these prophecies are a fulfillment of what Jesus was instructing us to pray for.

Jeremiah 31:29-34: God is essentially saying, "Remember the chosen people of the Old Testament and they messed up? They will no longer be under the disadvantage of living in sin because they were born that way. Now, if there is going to be sin, each one of them is going to be personally responsible for their own actions."

Micah 4:1-5: Is God biased? Think about the wonderful promises of equity we have amongst all men.



So, what have we learned about God and His creation - with nations in the picture and with Israel, despite having been privileged acting out of accordance with God's will, with the backdrop of Jesus' teaching and example, with a young Christian Church faced with issues, and now with a plan of Salvation revealed for every man woman and child throughout history?

- Ⓢ He is the Creator;
- Ⓢ He set the rules;
- Ⓢ His rules are based in righteousness and justice;
- Ⓢ He allowed Satan to choose;
- Ⓢ He allowed man to choose;
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- Ⓢ God, through Jesus, reveals the great favoring power of focused faith, no matter who has it.
- Ⓢ God gives us His impartiality as the ideal comparison when we are dealing with OUR bias.
- Ⓢ **God so loved the world, that he provided eternal life for all of them right from the start!**

God, in His dealing with humanity for over 6,000 years, shows us there is a plan in place that makes it so each and every human who ever lived, because of the sacrifice of Jesus, will have an opportunity to live and make their life good. It will be according to their own choices and judgment, made possible by the resurrection provided by Jesus, canceling out death provided by Adam.

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So do we see any evidence of bias on God's part, or Jesus' part or the efforts of Christians or in the fullness of God's plan? We maintain God is NOT biased...but He IS brilliant!

***So is God biased?
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions,
Think about it...!***