

GOD IS NO RESPECTER OF PERSONS

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In Acts chapter ten, beginning with verse 30, we see the story of Cornelius who had been advised by an Angel to send to Joppa and call for Simon Peter, **“who when he commeth shall speak unto thee.”** Obeying the voice of the Angel, Peter was sent for, and upon his arrival was told; **“Now therefore we are all here present before God, to hear all things that are commanded thee of God.”**

In Verse 34 we read, **“Then Peter opened his mouth and said, of a truth I perceive THAT GOD IS NO RESPECTER OF PERSONS.”** We will use this verse as the main thought for our sermon. Notice that Peter said, in essence, “I have perceived, or had the revelation, of a powerful and wonderful truth, which truth is, God does not RESPECT ONE PERSON ABOVE ANOTHER PERSON.” (He will save both Jew and Gentile.)

There is an urgent need for us Message Believers to have a true revelation concerning this Scripture. Without question, some of us have, in times past, not understood it fully. It is from the mouth of Peter, by the Holy Ghost, saying, “It is the truth that God does not respect one person above another! This is a key Scripture in understanding Rom. 9:11-21.

Keeping in mind that no Scripture can be disregarded without sad consequences, then we have to ask our Lord for revelation as how to make every Scripture dove-tail with all other Scripture. Our past failures in this regard have resulted in a wrong understanding of some important doctrines. This is the case concerning our text Scripture. Holding fast now to our rule that all Scripture is “Thus Saith the Lord” and must agree with all other Scripture, we ask the question, “How did the Holy Ghost say in Rom. 9:11-14 that before Jacob and Esau were

born, **“Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated?”** For this to be true, and it is true, God would have to have “Righteous reasons”, as we will see!

In Rom. 9:14, the Holy Ghost asks this question concerning God’s character, **“What shall we say then? Is there unrighteousness with God? God forbid.”** That is to say, did God love one man and hate the other WITHOUT CAUSE? If so, then He had made His own Word wrong and He would have been respecting one above the other! The Holy Ghost is asking us, “Will you accuse God of being unrighteous? From Genesis to Revelation the force of all Scripture is to declare the PERFECT RIGHTEOUSNESS of our Holy God. Any Scripture that seems to say different is being misunderstood!

Even in the natural world in which we live, it is clear that to enforce a penalty upon an innocent man is a crime! How much more is it wrong to accuse God of such a thing! Yet in our inability to compare Scriptures with Scriptures, some of us have supposed that our God did so on the grounds that He is God and does whatsoever He will. We have supposed that He sends some to Hell just because He is God and can do what He wants to. Just the opposite is true. Because He is God, He cannot (will not) send men to Hell without cause. It violates His righteous character!

Not only so, but it violates His Holy Word! Pr. 26:2, **“....So the**

curse causeless shall not come.” There is a cause for the curse, and a cause for blessings!

God is most certainly GOD, a RIGHTEOUS GOD, a HOLY GOD, a PERFECT GOD, a GOD THAT HAS NO DEGREE OF EVIL IN HIM, and a GOD THAT IS FAITHFUL to every JOT AND TITTLE of His Word. A God who has never sinned, nor done an individual WRONG. He is a God who is TOTAL PERFECTION beyond any words we have to describe Him! He, himself, asks, **“What iniquity have your fathers found in Me, that they are gone far from Me....”** (Jerm. 2:5) Is there unrighteousness with God? Absolutely not! (Rom. 9:14) We therefore know that, **“The thoughts that He thinks toward us are thoughts of PEACE, AND NOT EVIL, TO GIVE YOU AN EXPECTED END.”** (Jerm. 29:11) God spoke in James 2:9, **“But if you have respect to persons, ye COMMIT SIN, and are convinced of the Law as TRANSGRESSORS.”**

If God has admonished us against respecting one person above another, how will He pervert His own Word and do so HIMSELF? And if He has loved Jacob above Esau, WITHOUT CAUSE, He would have done what He told us is a sin. To love one man and hate the other without RIGHTEOUS REASON, would be for God to go against His own Holy and Righteous Nature!

We know God cannot do wrong. Then we need to also confess that to enforce a penalty upon an innocent person is wrong, whether it be done in Earth or in Heaven! So, we have come to the definition of what it means to respect one person above another. To respect any person above another, and send one to Hell and one to Heaven, would be to ignore any reason or cause for the one action or the other. Scripture declares the curse shall not come without cause.

To stay in line with God's overall Word, we must acknowledge that any actions taken by our righteous God are based on CAUSES. Since He has made us Free Moral Agents with the ability to choose our own way, then for Him to ignore our choice to serve and obey Him would be to ignore the fact that He has set before us CHOICES and commanded us to choose. Also, He would be respecting persons if He ignores a man's choice to serve sin and the Devil, and did not send him to his rightful place.

And so, when our God says He is no respecter of persons, He is saying He will never ignore any person's decisions by giving them other than what their heart's desire has been. He has a RIGHTEOUS CAUSE for every action He takes. If it were otherwise, He would be guilty of taking UN-RIGHTEOUS ACTIONS, and as has been said, we know He is not guilty of such! So then, to be no respecter of persons, He must give every person according to the CAUSES He has down in His Book, either for them or against them. Some will be lost BECAUSE of certain things, and some will be saved BECAUSE of certain things. This is man's responsibility! This is not doing away with Grace, as we will show if you will be patient with the writer.

We do admit that Rom. 9:11-21 is written in such a way as to need other Scripture to help explain it. Our Prophet has told us, and we have

learned from Scriptures, that to find the origin of things we must go to Genesis, the Book of Beginnings. It is there that we will find the truth about Predestination and Election.

QUOTE: CHRIST IS THE MYSTERY OF GOD REVEALED, PAGE 16, "So, in my opinion, the first thing that He made was Angels. And then they worshipped Him, and that made Him God. And He started from there, as in previous messages, I have tried to explain it and break it down." (End quote)

We understand that God made different kinds of Angels, some who were to serve Him as Heavenly Angels and never to live in human flesh, such as Seraphs and etc., and we also know that God created man in His own Likeness and Image, in bodies like His own Supernatural, Theophany Body. So, in one sense of the word, it can be said that we were once the Angels that did not fall, Angels that would later be sent to live in human flesh.

QUOTE: UNFAILING REALITIES OF THE LIVING GOD, PAGE 30, "Let me say one more thing. Creeds does not satisfy a hungry heart. Creeds won't satisfy. If a man is hungry for God, you tell him, say, "Say the Apostle's Creed, join the church, put your name on here, be sprinkled or immersed, or what ever you want to, that will never satisfy a hungry soul. Cause, they were predestinated, of God, to search for Life. They was once the angels, they was once an angel who did not fall. One third of the angels of Heaven fell; that's these evil spirits working amongst people, very religious. You know the Bible says that. You was just not all always right here. You were once somewhere else.

Remember, sin didn't begin on Earth. Sin begin in Heaven, when Lucifer taken and made it. He said, "I want a denomination, make a great big thing," went on the North Country

and set up a bigger thing than Michael had. And he was kicked out of Heaven.

And those angels back there, them spirits. Well, that's the reason, "**When this earthly tabernacle be dissolved, we have one already waiting.**" See? And that's the reason, "Our name was put on the Lamb's Book of Life before the foundation of the world." "**All the Father has given Me, will come to me.**" (End quote)

Brother Branham's statement above, came from the Scriptures in Gen. 1:26-27, "**And God said, let us make man in Our Own Image, after Our likeness....So God created man in His Own Image, in the Image of God created He him.**" We have been taught that God has a Theophany Body and that while in that Theophany, He walked up to Abraham's tent door, and being like as unto a MAN, He ate a meal with Abraham. It was in such a body (Image) that we were first created. Then was not the Prophet in the boundaries of the Scripture to say, "WE were once the Angels that did not fall? Remember, God created different kinds of Angels.

Our subject is "God is NOT a respecter of persons." We are going back to Genesis to discover that every decision and every action that our God has ever taken was based on righteous causes. **Before there was ever an earth, God created different kinds of angels, and the kind that we were, in our Theophany, was placed on probation, in that we were confronted with a choice. We had to choose to remain with our Creator, or abandon Him and follow an Angel named Lucifer! Since this is Scripture, we must accept it.**

Please notice! It was only AFTER the choices were made that God judged Lucifer and his group, and cast them out of Heaven. He did not do so just because He was God and had decided to RESPECT some of the Angels above the others. He had righteous CAUSE for casting out Lucifer

and his angels, and the cause was REBELLION. He had righteous cause for blessing the remaining Angels and calling them His "ELECT ANGELS." (I Tim. 5:21)

I Tim. 5:21, "I charge thee before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, AND THE ELECT ANGELS, that thou observe these things WITHOUT PREFERRING ONE BEFORE THE OTHER, DOING NOTHING BY PARTIALITY." How can we deny it friends? His ELECT ANGELS are those who chose to stay with Him in Heaven. The curse on the other angels did not come without CAUSE, it came FOR A CAUSE, or BECAUSE they abandoned their God. Also, in the above Scripture, we see again God's rule that He does nothing by PARTIALITY. His actions, His blessings and His curses, are based on CAUSES.

We would now like to call the Holy Ghost, Himself, as our witness. We will let Him testify that He would never send a man to Hell just because He has the power to do so. There must be a just cause!

Ezk. 18:23-32, "Have I any pleasure at all that the wicked should die? Saith the Lord God: and not that he should return from his ways, and live?" (Far be it from God to send a man to Hell just because He has the power to do so!)

Verse 24, "But when the righteous turneth away from his righteousness, and committeth iniquity, and doeth according to all the abominations that the wicked man doeth, shall he live? All his righteousness that he hath done shall not be mentioned; in his trespass that he hath trespassed, and in his sin that he hath sinned, in them shall he die." (There is a reason for men dying in sin.)

VERSE 25, Yet ye say, the way of the Lord is not equal. Hear now, O House of Israel; Is not my way equal? Are not your ways unequal?

VERSE 26, When a righteous man turneth away from his righteousness, and committeth iniquity, and dieth in them; for his iniquity that he hath done shall he die.

VERSE 27, Again, when the wicked man turneth away from his wickedness that he hath committed, and doeth that which is lawful and right, he shall save his soul alive.

VERSE 28, Because he considereth, and turneth away from all his transgressions that he hath committed, he shall surely live, he shall not die.

VERSE 29, Yet saith the house of Israel, The way of the Lord is not equal. O house of Israel, are not my ways equal? Are not your ways unequal?

VERSE 30, Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, saith the Lord God. Repent, and turn yourselves from all your transgressions; so iniquity shall not be your ruin.

VERSE 31, Cast away from you all your transgressions, whereby ye have transgressed; and make you a new heart and a new spirit: for why will ye die, O house of Israel?

VERSE 32, For I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, saith the Lord God: wherefore turn yourselves, and live ye."

They accused God of being unequal, of respecting persons, but He denied the charge, saying, "My ways are equal, I do not condemn men for no reason."

Dear Friends, the above Scriptures must be made to dove-tail with those in Rom. 9:11-21, or else which set will we disregard? We well know that neither set can be disregarded! If Rom. 9 seems to say God was unequal in His Election, then many other Scriptures deny it.

We must now go a little further to show that we are not trying to do away with GRACE, therefore we will bring GRACE into its proper place. To do

so, we must again go back to the beginning. When one-third of the Angels were put out of Heaven along with their leader, there can be no doubt that Lucifer objected to being cast out. The Scripture says, "There was war in Heaven; Michael and His Angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon fought and his angels, and prevailed not, neither was their place found anymore in Heaven." (Rev. 12:7-8) Fallen Angels ended up on Earth along with the good Angels. See the Prophet's quote again on page 2 of this sermon.

Yes, Lucifer strongly objected to his being put out of Heaven. It is quite likely that he accused God of wrong doing because he was put out. In the Book of Job, we see where he accused God of over-protecting Job in that he could not get through the hedge built for Job's protection.

We do not believe that God would receive such a charge against Himself without taking steps to prove it wrong. Therefore, His decision was to "Subject His creatures to vanity" by placing them on Earth in flesh bodies to be further tested and tried. (Rom. 8:20) Although the Prophet said, "We were once the Angels who did not fall," he also said that there is a veil of darkness that keeps us from remembering that. But Genesis 1:27 says we were there in bodies like God's own body.

Further proof that the Creatures mentioned in Rom. 8:20 are the Bride of Christ is found in Heb. 2:14, "Forasmuch then as the Children are partakers of flesh and blood, He also Himself likewise took part of the same, that through death He might destroy him that had the power of death, that is the devil."

It is this writer's belief that "The Children were made partakers of flesh and blood" for the purpose of God, who having been accused by Lucifer of over-protecting the Elect Angels, chose to prove his accusation wrong by placing them in flesh to be further

tested. We are aware of the plan of God used in order to allow us to be born here with Lucifer's nature in us. Lucifer took over the Serpent, the Serpent beguiled Eve, and all her children were born lost, having Satan's nature in them! This is the doctrine of TOTAL DEPRAVITY which the Bible teaches.

But our God knew what He would do to offset our wrong birth in these flesh bodies. Although He had allowed Satan to plant his evil seed in mankind, God's plan was to also plant His Seed in those Elect Angels, as they appeared on Earth in flesh. (See, GOD WHO IS RICH IN MERCY, PAGE 6) Then there would be a NEW BIRTH when God quickened His Seed in us. Those who were to receive God's Seed are those who chose to stay with Him and resist Lucifer's rebellion! (The Elect Angels)

And so, we have the Elect Angels on Earth, who were first born with the nature of Satan in them, but who at some time during their lives were to have God's Seed quickened in them. (This is the Prophet's teaching.) Now, if these things be true, we can see into the depths of God's plan, which was made to prove Lucifer's claim wrong where in he accused God of over protecting two thirds of the Angels who did not fall.

The Elect Angels would be on Earth in flesh having a "Law of sin" in their flesh, but they would also end up with God's own Seed in them, through the New Birth. All the while our God knowing the outcome of the war between His Spirit and Satan's spirit, knowing that His righteousness would win out over the unrighteousness of Satan.

In this way then, God is proving to Lucifer that even though he was granted more time to win the Elect Angels, all his efforts, all his false teaching, all of his appearing "As an angel of Light" would fail. How privi-

leged we are Saints of God to be being used of God to prove Satan's church wrong, and that God's Spirit can never be overcome by any enemy!

In closing, we must try and put Grace in its proper place. Just as we can never prove by Scripture that man is not responsible, neither can we do away with Grace that called us while we had no intention of forsaking our sins to serve God. Having been born lost and separated from God, with a nature that would have never turned back to Him, Grace took over. Rom. 5:6-10, "**For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. Verse 8, "But God commendeth His love toward us, in that while we were yet SINNERS, Christ died for us. Verse 10, "For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by His life."**

Here then is Grace in full bloom. Having been given a conscience, and knowing full well we were wrong; we loved our sins, and continued in them, some of us for many years. We trampled His love under foot, loving darkness rather than light. But God knew who we were all the time, one of the Elect Angels who would not follow Lucifer in Heaven's rebellion.

John 6:44. "**No man can come to Me, except the Father which hath sent Me draw him; And I will raise him up at the last day.**" And so, without Grace, we were doomed, because knowing we were enemies of God, and wrong, we refused to be reconciled. But while we were YET SINNERS (still enemies) God reconciled us. (Rom. 5:10) According to Rom 9:16, it was not because of our own will, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth Mercy. This was pure Grace to be saved in spite of ourselves.

II Peter 3:9, "**The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as**

some men count slackness, but is long suffering to usward, NOT WILLING THAT ANY SHOULD PERSIH, BUT THAT ALL SHOULD COME TO REPENTANCE."

QUOTE: WARNING THEN JUDGMENT, PAGES 6-7 (JULY 1963), "And God never even brings judgment upon the earth without first giving the people a warning.....He gives people a choice, and you can do right or wrong.....Now everyone has this (warning).....God is sovereign and He knocks at the heart of every man, giving Him the opportunity to come." (End quote)

God's Election then has to be by FOREKNOWLEDGE, knowing before He elected those who would have a will to serve Him (after He called them). Rom. 8: 29, "**For whom He did foreknow, He also did predestinate, to be conformed to the Image of His Son.....**" Election is God's business, ours is to preach that whosoever has a desire, may come. And so, God's Election and man's responsibility join hands to produce full Salvation. God is no respecter of persons! The fact that God is no respecter of persons is another way of saying that man is a Free Moral Agent. If God does not respect persons, then His treatment of us must be based on decisions that we make as individuals. Our decisions determine our blessings and our curses in this life, as well as our Eternal destination. Deut. 30:19, "**I call Heaven and Earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you Life and Death, blessing and cursing, therefore CHOOSE Life that both thou and thy seed may live.**

QUOTE: PAUL A PRISONER, VOL. 2A, PAGE 7, JULY, 1963, "Now we are all born a Free Moral Agent, to make any decisions we wish to. God justly does that, because He must put every man on the same basis, or He put the first man on the wrong basis....." *Amen!*