
MADISON HEIGHTS MESSENGER

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God Shows No Partiality

The Apostle Paul did not start the church in Rome. The Apostle Paul had no authority as an apostle in Rome because he did not start the church there but he wanted to claim the Roman church. There are a few key theological points that he taught.

- 1, The character of God and the nature of God are revealed through the gospel.
- 2, Justification is by faith, it is a matter of the right relationship between God and us.
- 3, The gospel is about God rectifying the human condition; God has always been and always will be faithful to Israel.

The Apostle Paul sees Christ as the Son of God and sees himself as a slave to Christ. Paul creates a relationship with the Roman church by saying how much he cares for them even though he does not know them. Since we face God's judgment but are trapped by the power of evil, an appropriate response to the problem is necessary. The righteousness of God is revealed and the one who is righteous will live by faith. God shows no partiality in taking decisive action to bring in the Gentiles through the offer of salvation.

As Paul put it, God's power, and divine nature, can be seen through everything that is made. On any given day the things of nature provide evidence of God. We can see evidence of God in the rain, the oxygen we breathe, the flowers, and all signs of life. With all of the evidence around us there really is no excuse to worship anything other than God. Paul taught that the foundation of evil is idol worship. Paul addressed the worst of sins. Many people today point out, preach and teach these evils but Paul did not point out individual evils; what Paul did is teach that all kinds of evil start with idol worship. Key to all of the problems that face humanity is idol worship - putting things in front of God.

The Apostle Paul further taught that if you pass judgment on another you condemn yourself. God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance as is confirmed in the action of Jesus. I refer your attention for a moment to Judas. We all know the action of Judas was an act of betrayal. Instead of being upset or angry, Jesus washed his feet. The act of kindness was a lesson on humility but Judas failed to repent. And Jesus welcomed Judas at the table. That act of kindness was a lesson on hospitality, oneness, and fellowship, but Judas had a hard heart and refused to repent. God always offers an awareness of transgression, a chance to repent, and salvation. I will repeat this for memory sake and emphasize the word "always." God **always** offers awareness of transgression, an offer to repent, and salvation. This is God's consistent and loving response to the human condition.

The way Paul phrases it is, those who are patient and seek God's glory will be given eternal life. Glory and honor and peace are for everyone who seeks God. For those who are self-seeking, who live a life of wickedness, there will be wrath and fury. Anguish and distress are for everyone who does evil. There is always this duality. It is either one way or the other. It is never in the middle. God shows no partiality to anyone - Jew or Greek, male or female, or color of skin. When it comes to righteousness everyone is on equal footing and gets justice through God's righteous judgment.

Thank you,

George