

**CONT...**We are grateful that God has not arbitrarily chosen some people to be saved and some to be lost. Imagine a basis upon which He might select which people should be saved. Would He choose the wealthy? The well known? The most intelligent? Members of a particular ethnic group or culture? Fortunately, each person can choose for himself whether or not to accept God's saving grace (Joshua 24:15; Isaiah 7:16; Ezekiel 18:20; Matthew 23:37; Revelation 22:17). Each person is responsible for his or her own actions (Ezekiel 18:20; Romans 14:12; 2 Corinthians 5:10). Because of God's marvelous love for all humans, He is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9; cf. 1 Timothy 2:4). **REFERENCES Jackson, Wayne (2004), "To What Law Were the Ancient Gentiles Accountable?," [On-line], URL: <http://www.christiancourier.com/questions/whatLawAncientGentiles.htm>. Lenski, R.C.H. (1961 reprint), *The Interpretation of the Acts of the Apostles* (Minneapolis, MN: Augsburg) Copyright © 2004 Apologetics Press, Inc. All rights reserved. <http://www.apologeticspress.org/articles/2607>**

## Daily Bible Reading Schedule

Date	Morning	Evening
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04/27/09 Monday.....
04/28/09 Tuesday.....
04/29/09 Wednesday.....
04/30/09 Thursday.....
05/01/09 Friday.....
05/02/09 Saturday.....
05/03/09 Sunday.....

Judges.....21
Ruth.....01
Ruth.....02
Ruth.....03
Ruth.....04
1 Samuel.....01-02
1 Samuel.....03-04

Psalm.....02-03
Psalm.....04-05
Psalm.....06-07
Psalm.....08-09
Psalm.....10-11
Psalm.....12-13
Psalm.....14-15

The Informer is a weekly publication that is published and overseen by the Belle church of Christ located at the corner of 8<sup>th</sup> and Oak in Belle, Missouri 65013. Our Mailing address is "P.O. Box 381, Belle, Missouri 65013. The church phone number is (573) 859-6616. Jerry McDonald is the pulpit preacher. His email address is [jerry@challenge2.org](mailto:jerry@challenge2.org). His cell number is (573) 578-5931. Thomas McDonald is the associate preacher. His email address is [thmcdonald10@hotmail.com](mailto:thmcdonald10@hotmail.com). His cell phone number is (573) 308-9126. We support U. John in Prakasam, India. We will also be supporting Jeremy Desjarlais in Sydney, Australia. We also support Ruben Williams as he studies to preach at the Memphis School of Preaching. Our church website is <http://www.bellecoc.com>. The email address is [bellecoc@bellecoc.com](mailto:bellecoc@bellecoc.com). Our services are as follows:

### TIMES OF SERVICE

Sunday Morning Bible Study.....9:30  
 Sunday Morning Worship.....10:30  
 Sunday Evening Worship.....6:00  
 Wednesday Evening Bible Study.....7:00  
 Ladies Bible Class 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday Evening of Each Month.....7:00

### OUR PLEA:

BACK-TO-THE-BIBLE

Belle church of Christ  
 P.O. Box 381  
 Belle, MO 65013

# The Informer

Belle church of Christ

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## God is No Respector of Persons

Caleb Colley, B.A., B.S.

**W**hen the first Gentile was converted to Christianity, the apostle Peter perceived that "God shows no partiality. But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him" (Acts 10:34-35). Before the church was established and Gentiles began to be converted to Christ, many Jews supposed that God favored them over all other ethnic groups; some had the false notion that merely being Jewish was a sure sign that one was saved (Matthew 3:9; Luke 3:8; 7:30).

When the religious barrier between Jews and Gentiles was broken down, Peter more fully understood one important aspect of God's character: He does not favor—and never has favored—one person or group of people over others. Whether or not the Israelites always understood it, anyone who obeys God's commands can be justified in His sight. Consider a sampling of the passages that emphasize God's fairness toward all humans:

2 Chronicles 19:7: "Now therefore, let the fear of the Lord be upon you; take care and do it, for there is no iniquity with the Lord our God, no partiality, nor taking of bribes." Job 34:19: "Yet He is not partial to princes, nor does He regard the rich more than the poor; for they are all the work of His hands." Romans 2:10-11: "[B]ut glory, honor, and peace to everyone who works what is good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For there is no partiality with God." Galatians 5:6: "For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision or uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love." 1 Peter 1:17: "And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay here in fear."

## CHURCH NEWS

### PRAYER LIST

We need to remember all those who are sick and afflicted in our daily prayers. We need to remember those who are in the nursing homes, and in the military. We also need to keep Doris Pendleton, Ruby Backus, Tex Kinman, Bill and Verna Butler, Lynna Shanks, Verma Long, Connie Gass, Nelta Brock, Cheryl Harris, Janet Patrick, Evonelle Calkins, Vera Dreysse, Elnora Shanks, Dawn Tivoli, Richard Massey, the Bill Habermehl family, Savannah Shanks, Taylor Shanks, Adrian and Jean Swindler, Chesley Shanks, Gary Wallace, Sandy Sarchette, and Olivia Shanks. Let us also continue to remember Andy Shanks, Nettie B. Shirley, Chesley Shanks, Dixie Wallace, and Darrell Conley in our daily prayers. We also need to remember Logan Shanks. They had to take some biopsy's and they won't know what is wrong until they get the test results back on Tuesday. Let us keep him in our prayers. Gary Cooper is going in for surgery on his heart in two weeks, so let us keep him in our daily prayers.

Exactly what does it mean that God is impartial? God offers salvation to every man, no matter what external circumstances, such as socioeconomic status or nationality, might apply to him. God does not offer salvation only to the Jew, just because he is a Jew, or only to the Gentile because he is a Gentile. The Greek word translated “respector of persons” in the King James Version of Acts 10:34 (“God is no respector of persons”) is *prospolemptes*, a word that refers to a judge who looks at a man's face instead of at the facts of the case, and makes a decision based on whether or not he likes the man (Lenski, 1961, p. 418). Under Roman law, for example, a defendant's societal status was weighed heavily along with evidence. Any human judge might show undue favor to a plaintiff or a defendant because of private friendship, bribery, rank, power, or political affiliation, but God, the perfect Judge, cannot be tempted by any of the things that might tempt a human judge to show unfair partiality.

God's impartiality does not keep Him from choosing people and nations of people to accomplish His specific purposes. He was free to use the Israelites as the seed line to bring about the Son of God in human form (the Israelites have never been the only group of people who had access to salvation—see Romans 1:18ff; Jackson, 2004); He was free to use the Babylonians to defeat the disobedient Israelites in battle and to take the spoils from them (2 Kings 25:1-21); He was free to use Peter and Paul to spread the Gospel to lost sinners. God can accomplish everything He needs to do without violating His commitment to allow all the opportunity to be saved.

Furthermore, God blesses people in different ways. God's impartiality does not mean that everyone will have exactly the same amount of money, exactly the same amount of influence, exactly the same number of children, or exactly the same number of years upon the Earth. (At the very moment that Peter noted God's impartiality, he was in the presence of a man who possessed more material wealth than Peter did.) Some do have more money than others, some have families who love them more, and some even have more opportunities to hear the Gospel preached. However, everyone can be saved, if he is willing to search for the truth. While some accountable adults may live their entire lives without hearing a single Gospel sermon, they all experience the marvelous works of the hand of God, showing every person that He exists. Paul wrote:

[W]hat may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts and their foolish hearts were darkened (Romans 1:19-21).

God always has expected impartiality from His followers. We should not treat people differently because of their financial status or outward appearance. The Lord said: “You shall do no injustice in judgment. You shall not be partial to the poor, nor honor the person of the mighty” (Leviticus 19:15). Deuteronomy 1:17 reads: “You shall not show partiality in judgment; you shall hear the small as well as the great.” After describing a scenario in which a rich man was given a favored seat in the assembly, and a poor man was pushed to the side, James wrote: “But if you show partiality, you commit sin, and are convicted by the law as transgressors” (James 2:9). In stating that Christians should not show partiality because they believe in Christ, James, by inspiration, suggested that favoritism—treating certain people as if they are of more inherent worth—is inconsistent with faith in Christ, and causes one to violate God's law of liberty (2:8,12) (Continued on page 4).

THOSE TO SERVE April 26, 2009 A.M.	THOSE TO SERVE May 3, 2009 A.M.
Greeters.....David Shanks & Thomas McDonald	Greeters.....Jerry McDonald & Rick Popejoy
Announcements.....Danny Keeney	Announcements.....Jerry McDonald
Song Leader.....Andy Shanks	Song Leader.....Will McLin
Opening Prayer.....Thomas McDonald	Opening Prayer.....Gary Wallace
Lord's Supper...David Shanks & Elwood Runge	Lord's Supper...Danny Keeney & Elwood Runge
Sermon.....Jerry McDonald	Sermon.....Brandt Stubblefield
Closing Prayer.....Gary Wallace	Closing Prayer.....Andy Shanks
P.M.	P.M.
Song Leader.....Andy Shanks	Song Leader.....Jerry McDonald
Opening Prayer.....David Shanks	Opening Prayer.....Elwood Runge
Sermon.....Jerry McDonald	Sermon.....Rick Popejoy & Brandt Stubblefield
Closing Prayer.....Elwood Runge	Closing Prayer.....Thomas McDonald
WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY	WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY
Song Leader.....Andy Shanks	Song Leader.....Jerry McDonald
Opening Prayer.....Danny Keeney	Opening Prayer.....Gary Wallace
Devotional.....Jerry McDonald	Devotional.....To Be Announced
Closing Prayer.....Thomas McDonald	Closing Prayer.....Danny Keeney

### ***FAIR HAVEN CHILDREN'S HOME***

The items for Fair Haven Children's Home this week are “Laundry Soap,” and “Toilet Cleaner.”

### **Fellowship Meal**

Don't forget that we are having a fellowship meal next Sunday to get to know the brethren from Oklahoma who come up to help us knock doors. Let's all plan on attending.

### Campaign & Meeting

Time's up! Our meeting begins next Friday and our campaign is next Saturday. Let us keep this effort in our daily prayers. We also need to be spiritually & mentally prepared for this event.

**Sermon for Sunday morning—“Redeemed: Christ Is Mine.”**

**Sunday evening we will finish the power point presentation for the campaign**