

Everyday, Part 7

The “Everyday series” is supposed to be finished, but I’m compelled to add a Scriptural postscript to the last six weeks. We’ve been learning that, when we do what the church is supposed to do EVERYDAY, then we can count on God to do what only He can do EVERYDAY. It’s right there in the book of Acts ...

Acts 2:42 And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

STEDFASTLY means “to be earnest towards, to persevere in, to be constantly diligent with, to attend to constantly, to adhere closely to, to continue in.” STEADFASTLY means “DON’T EVER STOP!” (Maybe that’s the reason for “part seven” in a “six-part series”!)

Acts 2:46-47 And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

I guess the best way to summarize this message is to tell you right up front that the principles we have been talking about will work for everyone, but they will not work for everyone. How’s that for being clear? Why don’t you repeat that to your neighbour? “This will work for everyone ... but it will not work for everyone.”

There is an eternal principle in Scripture that defines our God – HE IS NO RESPECTER OF PERSONS – this will work for everyone!

Deuteronomy 10:17 For the Lord your God is God of gods, and Lord of lords, a great God, a mighty, and a terrible, which regardeth not persons, nor taketh reward:

2 Chronicles 19:7 Wherefore now let the fear of the Lord be upon you; take heed and do it: for there is no iniquity with the Lord our God, nor respect of persons, nor taking of gifts.

In the Old Testament, God is compared to earthly kings who could be bribed by your gift. Some people still try to approach God that way – with their good deeds. They give “lip service” to the idea that they are saved by God’s grace, but if you listen to them talk for awhile, their Christian life is all about THEM, not GOD. In most cases, they have replaced the good works God asks us to do in His Word with good works they have chosen because they feel comfortable. It’s a BRIBE, not the sacrifice that God requires. And it doesn’t work, because God is no respecter of persons!

It’s left up to the New Testament to fully explain why THIS WILL WORK FOR EVERYONE, BUT IT WILL NOT WORK FOR EVERYONE!

Peter starts the ball rolling at the house of Cornelius, as the Gentiles are finally welcomed into the New Testament church. It has been God’s will since Acts 2:39, but it has taken Peter more than a decade to finally act on what he preached on the Day of Pentecost ...

Acts 10:34-35 Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.

Paul voices this principle repeatedly in writing to the churches ...

He says it about church leaders ...

Galatians 2:6 But of these who seemed to be somewhat, (whatsoever they were, it maketh no matter to me: God accepteth no man’s person:) for they who seemed to be somewhat in conference added nothing to me:

He says it to masters ...

Ephesians 6:9 And, ye masters, do the same things unto them, forbearing threatening: knowing that your Master also is in heaven; neither is there respect of persons with him.

He says it to servants ...

Colossians 3:25 But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons.

He says it to all of us ...

Romans 2:11 For there is no respect of persons with God.

Paul explains, in several different contexts, why the salvation we have, the principles we live by, and the kingdom blessings we enjoy will work for EVERYONE – simply because our God is no respecter of persons.

The most famous verse in the Bible contains this concept ...

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

And the Bible even concludes by reminding us of this principle ...

Revelation 22:17 And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

But Peter, who cracked open this New Testament door in the first place, writes near the end of the New Testament to explain why THIS WILL WORK FOR EVERYONE, BUT IT WILL NOT WORK FOR EVERYONE!

1 Peter 1:13-19 Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy. And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear: Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

All the preachers who tell us today that God doesn't care about our WORKS are wrong! The Bible contradicts them on numerous occasions. While it is true that, as a sinner, you can't do enough good works to GET saved, it is equally true that, as a Christian, God expects you to do the good works He desires simply because you ARE saved. If you really have a new nature, your works will reflect CHRIST, not CULTURE.

“WITHOUT RESPECT OF PERSONS” SIMPLY MEANS THAT GOD WILL NOT ACCEPT ANYONE’S EXCUSES AS TO WHY THEY DIDN’T LIVE ACCORDING TO HIS WORD. This will work for everyone, but it will not work for everyone! If that's confusing for you, let's say it this way:

GOD IS NO RESPECTER OF PERSONS, BUT HE IS A RESPECTER OF PRINCIPLE – IF YOU OBEY HIS WORD, HIS WORD WORKS!

GOD IS NO RESPECTER OF PERSONS, BUT HE IS A RESPECTER OF PASSION – HE IS LOOKING FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE TOTALLY SOLD-OUT, HARD-CORE, NO-HOLDS-BARRED, INSANELY APOSTOLIC IN SERVING HIM. THEY ALWAYS GET HIS ATTENTION!

The four friends of the paralyzed man tearing a roof apart in Mark 2

The woman with the issue of blood crawling through the crowd in Mark 5

The mother wanting a “crumb” for her demonized daughter in Mark 7

The father battling his own unbelief for his deaf and dumb son in Mark 9

Blind Bartimaeus crying out over the opposition of the crowd in Mark 10

GOD IS NO RESPECTER OF PERSONS – BUT HE IS A RESPECTER OF PRINCIPLE AND OF PASSION!