

## ONE OF GOD'S FAVORITES

Psalm 106:1-5

INTRODUCTION: What do you think it would be like to be one of God's favorite people? Psalm 106:4-5. The Greek words that are interpreted as "favor" are also interpreted as "grace." "Grace" always means "unmerited favor." Men favor other men often because of family name, beauty, or wealth. We as Christ followers are forbidden to judge other men like that: James 2:1-9. Our God is no respecter of persons: Acts 10:34-35. The things men hold in high esteem God sees as of little value: 1 Corinthians 1:26-31. We are warned not to think too highly of ourselves: 2 Corinthians 10:12. Those who have the highest self-esteem do not have the favor of God: 1 Peter 5:5-7.

### I. WHAT SHOULD WE TAKE PRIDE IN?

The Bible tells us that Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord: Genesis 6:8. What else does the Bible tell us about Noah: Genesis 9:20-21. The Bible tells us about Abraham: Genesis 12:1-3. What else does the Bible tell us about Abraham: Genesis 12:10-13. What about Isaac? Genesis 16:6-7: Although Isaac was a liar he still found favor with God: Genesis 26:24. How about Jacob? He also found favor with God although he was also a liar: Genesis 27:18-24: Genesis 28:10-15. How about Moses, what kind of a man was he when he found favor with God? Exodus 2:11-12. Moses was a murderer and yet he also found favor with God: Exodus 3:1-12. Now not to leave the women out; how about Rahab? Joshua 2:1-7: Rahab found favor with God although she was a prostitute and a liar. Matthew 1:5-6. Each of those people who received favor from God were sinners. How about the apostle Peter? Matthew 4:18-20. Peter was one who found favor with God and yet even after he had received that favor was a liar and even denied his Lord: Matthew 26:69-75. Mary Magdala also found favor with God although she was demon possessed. Luke 8:1-3. Yes, even our beloved apostle Paul received the favor of God even though he was a murderer. Acts 7:54-60. Our God gives His favor to man for the praise of His glory: Ephesians 1:3-14. So, our question is "Who may receive the favor of the Lord? The answer is all mankind receives God's favor: Matthew 5:43-48. Our God loves all mankind: Romans 5:8; John 3:16-21.

### II. GOD'S FAVOR AND GRACE CAN BE REFUSED!

How much of God's favor and grace has been refused by men? Isaiah 26:10. Cain is a good example here: Genesis 4:6-7. The children of Israel also refused God's grace: Jeremiah 6:16; Matthew 23:37-39. Just so today many still refuse the favor of God: 2 Corinthians 6:1-2; Hebrews 4:1-2.

### III. GOD'S FAVOR OR GRACE IS ALWAYS A GIFT, NOT EARNED, BUT FREELY GIVEN!

God's favor is not just for the life to come, but is meant to deliver us, preserve, heal and make us sound in mind today: Titus 2:11-15. God's favor or grace is always a gift and it cannot be earned: Ephesians 2:8-9. As we respond to God's favor with obedience and faith He gives us even more favor and grace: Psalm 84:11-12; Psalm 5:11-12. Our God favors all of us! How are you responding to God's favor? 2 Corinthians 6:1-2.